



VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) /
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Ventura County Government Center

Hall of Justice – Pacific Conference Room
800 S. Victoria Street, Ventura

www.goventura.org

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

(Action may be taken on any item listed on the agenda)

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENT

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Under the Brown Act, the committee/council should not act on or discuss matters raised during the Public Comment portion of the agenda which are not listed on the agenda. Committee/Council members may refer such matters to staff for factual information or to be placed on the subsequent agenda for consideration.

ITEM 4 MEETING MINUTES

Recommended Action:

- Receive and file.

Responsible Staff: Dolores Lopez

ITEM 5 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Recommended Action:

- Select from among the membership of this committee a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, who shall serve in their respective capacities for a term of one (1) calendar year.

Responsible Staff: Aubrey Smith

ITEM 6 FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Recommended Action:

- Approve the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Unmet Transit Needs Findings.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a committee meeting, please contact the Administrative Assistant at (805) 642-1591 ext. 111. Notification of at least 48 hours (about 2 days) prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

Responsible Staff: Dolores Lopez

ITEM 7 SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN (SRTP) UPDATE

Recommended Action:

- For discussion.

Responsible Staff: Aubrey Smith

Responsible Staff: Geiska Velasquez, Program Manager

ITEM 8 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

ITEM 9 MEMBER REPORTS

ITEM 10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Bus Stop Improvement Project
- Ebike safety
- Overview of transportation programs in Ventura County

ITEM 11 ADJOURN TO TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a committee meeting, please contact the Administrative Assistant at (805) 642-1591 ext. 111. Notification of at least 48 hours (about 2 days) prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.



**CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CTAC)/SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC)**

Ventura County Government Center
Hall of Justice - Pacific Conference Room
800 South Victoria Avenue

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025
1:30 PM**

Item 4

MEETING SUMMARY

CTAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Miranda Patton, Camarillo (Vice-Chair)
Bev Dransfeldt, Camarillo
Sandra Aldana, VCTC at Large

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marissa Rodriguez, Fillmore (Chair)
Joey Juhasz-Lukomski, Fillmore
Susan Leech, Ojai
Bill Miley, Ojai
Dan Weikel, Thousand Oaks
Chaise Rasheed, Thousand Oaks
Chera Minkler, Ventura
Rob Corley, Ventura
Manuel Minjares, Ventura County

CURRENT CTAC VACANCIES: City of Oxnard (2)
City of Moorpark (2)
City of Port Hueneme (2)
City of Santa Paula (2)
City of Simi Valley (2)
County of Ventura (1)
VCTC at Large (1)

SSTAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Maricela Pardo, Area Agency on Aging
Clarissa Marostica, 211Ride

SSTAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Megan Telfer, HELP of Ojai
Tammy Glen, VC Caregivers
Jeff Lambert, Housing Authority
Lupita Monreal, Mobility Management Partners (MMP)
John Looney, ACTION VC

Martha Shapiro, Senior Concerns
Esther Anaya, Arc of VC

VCTC STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Grasty, Public Transit Director
Aubrey Smith, Regional Transit Planning Manager
Geiska Velasquez, Programming Manager
Dolores Lopez, Regional Transit Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Patton called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – None.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The committee accepted the September 2024 meeting minutes.

5. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025

The committee received the 2025 meeting schedule.

6. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

This item was deferred to the April 2025 meeting.

7. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS OUTREACH

Dolores Lopez provided an update on the Unmet Transit Needs outreach to Neighborhood Councils, City Councils, and Senior Councils.

8. SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN AND PARATRANSIT INTEGRATION ANALYSIS UPDATE

Jeremiah La Rose, Fehr & Peers, presented the SRTP and Paratransit Integration Analysis update including 1) goals and components, 2) timeline, 3) travel markets, and 4) the findings.

9. PROJECT SELECTION FOR THE FY2024 SPECIAL TRANSIT CALL-FOR-PROJECTS FOR FTA SECTION 5310 LARGE URBANIZED AREA (SENIORS AND DISABLED) FUNDS, SECTION 5307 JOBS ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) FUNDS, AND ACCESS FOR ALL FUNDS

Geiska Velasquez updated the committee on the FY2024 Section 5310, JARC, and Access for All call for projects including 1) a brief background, 2) funding availability, 3) applications received, 4) funding availability, 5) and overview of funded projects, and 6) next steps.

10. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS – None.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee discussed the recruitment of new members.

13. ADJOURN TO APRIL 8, 2025

Vice Chair Patton adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.



Item 6

April 8, 2025

MEMO TO: CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)
SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC)

FROM: DOLORES LOPEZ, TRANSIT PLANNER
AUBREY SMITH, REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNING PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025/26 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA)
UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS (UTN) FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Unmet Transit Needs Findings.

DISCUSSION:

As part of the annually required Unmet Transit Needs Findings, the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee/Social Service Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC/SSTAC) is required to review and comment on the recommendations proposed to be presented to the Commission. The Unmet Transit Needs Assessment is attached.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 203, the cities of Santa Paula, Fillmore, Moorpark, and Camarillo are subject to the Unmet Transit Needs process. Additionally, on June 11, 2018, legislation allowed Thousand Oaks to spend TDA fund on streets and roads and they therefore now participate in the process as well. VCTC Intercity service does not utilize Article 8 funds for non-transit purposes; however, service requests for the regional service it provides are included in the process. The Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD), City of Ojai and the City of Simi Valley do not utilize or claim TDA Article 8 funds for non-transit purposes and their service is not subject to the Unmet Transit Needs process.

Adopted Criteria

In order for a request to be considered an Unmet Transit Need, it must receive at least 15-comment threshold for fixed route or the 10-comment threshold for dial-a-ride service and fall into one of the following categories:

- Public transit services not currently provided to reach employment, medical assistance, shop for food or clothing, to obtain social services such as health care, county welfare programs and education programs.
- Service must be needed by and benefit the general public.
- Service expansions including new routes, significant modifications to existing routes, and major increases in service hours and frequency

If they fulfill the above criteria, the need must also be determined to be reasonable to meet (see attachment).

In December of 2023, the Commission refined the definition of Unmet Transit Need to bolster our dedication to advancing the UTN process, particularly for those in disadvantaged areas. By adopting the Median Household Income (MHI) standard for a low-income threshold, the Commission aims to not just maintain the 10 and 15 comment thresholds but to prioritize improvements that meet these criteria while giving special attention to requests from low-income areas that might fall below this threshold. Additionally, for comments that meet the 10 or 15 comment threshold but are considered "Unreasonable to Meet", the agency tasked will pledge to evaluate the proposed service and explore funding for a pilot. Furthermore, the timeline for assessing passenger per hour performance has been increased from 36 to 60 months, endorsing a more comprehensive approach to evaluating new service efficacy over an extended period.

Public Input Process

The public comment period for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Unmet Transit Needs process was held between December 15, 2024 and February 15, 2025 with comments received throughout the year, but outside of the public comment period included in the analysis.

Each year, VCTC uses a variety of channels to promote and solicit public comments for the Unmet Transit Needs process including an online survey, social media advertising, eblasts, community meetings, and the GOVCbus app. Public notices were also printed in the Ventura County Star and VIDA News.

A total of 142 comments were received, primarily through surveys (108). Additional comments came via email (19), community meetings (11), letters (2), social media (1), and phone (1). Individual respondents often provided multiple comments within a single submission.

This total is noticeably lower than last year's, in part because outreach efforts this year were concentrated on the areas directly addressed in the analysis, rather than include the Gold Coast Transit and Simi Valley Transit service areas which were previously included. Consequently, reduced engagement was observed in those service areas. Another likely factor is survey fatigue, given the number of recent outreach efforts, including the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP), the Paratransit Analysis, and the Coastal Express Rider Survey. While feedback from those efforts was reviewed, it was not included in this assessment, as it did not meet the criteria for Unmet Transit Needs.

Analysis

Staff screened each comment received based on the criteria; no requests met the 15-comment threshold for fixed route or the 10-comment threshold for dial-a-ride service 15-comment threshold for fixed route service or the 10-comment threshold for dial-a-ride service and therefore were not further screened to determine if the need was reasonable to meet.

Public feedback garnered through the current year's analysis for transit services demonstrated strong interest in enhancing connectivity between transit lines and operators, along with increasing service frequency throughout Ventura County. These comments consistently highlighted the community's desire for more connected, accessible, and frequent local transportation options.

One of the most notable trends in this year's feedback was the increased number of requests for expanded Sunday and evening service. Respondents from cities such as Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Ventura, and Simi Valley expressed that the lack of service during these times presents a significant barrier to accessing employment, religious services, shopping, civic meetings, and recreational activities.

Comments also emphasized the need for improved regional connections to Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria, with a particular focus on restoring pre-pandemic rail schedules.

The Fillmore–Moorpark route, long identified as one of the most requested service improvements, was successfully implemented in August 2024 through a joint effort by VCTC and Valley Express. This new direct route addressed a critical gap in the regional network, reducing the need for transfers and significantly shortening travel times. Ongoing feedback related to this corridor points to continued interest in enhancing the service and adding additional stop locations.

Requests for new service between Fillmore/Piru and Santa Clarita continue to appear in public input. These comments typically focus on direct connections to Santa Clarita/Valencia for shopping and employment, as well as expanded service along Highway 126. Fleet capacity, route costs, labor, and configuration need to be addressed for service to Santa Clarita/Valencia. VCTC continues to explore the possibility of a potential partnership with Santa Clarita Transit for service from Fillmore.

Although these requests fell short of the required 15 comments to be considered as Unmet Transit Needs, they indicate significant public demand. Recognizing the community's need, our staff will collaborate with partner agencies to explore potential service additions in the future, aiming to address these identified gaps and enhance overall transit accessibility.

The most common comments that are not considered Unmet Transit Needs this year are related to expanded service to various Los Angeles County and Santa Barbara County locations and airports, rail service improvements, VCTC Intercity service improvements, and Gold Coast Transit District service improvements. The comments highlight a community in need of transit services that are more connected, frequent, accessible, and responsive to their varied daily schedules and destinations. Among these, the demand for extended service hours into late evenings and Sunday service is prominent, reflecting a shift towards using transit for leisure activities and accommodating non-traditional work schedules. All comments received are essential for future planning in Ventura County and comments that have decent support and have been brought up over the years are taken into consideration for future planning purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

At this time, staff is recommending that there are no Unmet Transit Needs that are reasonable to meet. Staff will present the recommendation to the Commission in May for approval and determination that Transportation Development Act funds can be allocated for streets and roads purposes in cities fewer than 100,000 persons and Thousand Oaks.