



TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Unmet Transit Needs Findings Report Fiscal Year 2018/19

Adopted:
March 13, 2019

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Introduction

The California Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires an annual assessment of regional transit needs prior to making any allocation of TDA funds for projects not directly benefiting public transportation. The assessment requires the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, as the regional transportation planning agency, to:

- Consult with the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC).
- Identify the transit needs of the jurisdiction which have been considered as part of the transportation planning process.
- Identify the unmet transit needs of the jurisdiction and those needs that are reasonable to meet.
- Conduct at least one public hearing for the purpose of soliciting comments on the unmet transit needs that may exist within the jurisdiction and that might be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services.
- Adopt by resolution a finding for the jurisdiction, after consideration of all available information that:
 - there are no unmet transit needs;
 - there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; or
 - there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

If the TCTC adopts a finding that there are unmet transit needs, identifying needs that are reasonable to meet, then the unmet transit needs shall be funded before any allocation is made for streets and roads purposes.

The purpose of this report is to document the fulfillment of the above requirements. The Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Tuolumne County is the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC). The current membership for the Tuolumne County Transportation Council and the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council are included on the following page.

Committee Membership Rosters

Tuolumne County Transportation Council

Member	Position	Representing
Michael Ayala	At-Large, Chair	Community-at-Large
Jim Garaventa	City Council	City of Sonora
John Gray	County Supervisor	District 4
Ryan Campbell	County Supervisor	District 3
Matt Hawkins	City Council	City of Sonora

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Name	Position	Representing
Cathie Peacock	Chairperson	Representing transit users who have a disability
Martha Geloy	Member	Representing transit users who are 60 years of age or older
Daniel Valdes	Member	Social Service provider for persons with Disabilities
Michael Pierce	Member	Social Service provider for persons with Disabilities
Cathie Peacock	Member	Social Service provider for persons of limited means
	Member	Social Service provider for Seniors
Doreen Schmidt	Member	Social Service provider for Seniors
	Member	Local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency
Cathy Salsedo	Member	Local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency, Storer
Valerie Gabriel	Member	At-Large member
Tamara Dockstader	Member	At-Large member

System Background

The Regional Public Transportation System, Tuolumne County Transit, was established under the Federal Section 147 grant in December 1976. Tuolumne County Transit is operated by a private transportation service provider through an agreement with the Tuolumne County Transit Agency (TCTA).

Tuolumne County Transit is funded primarily by the California Transportation Development Act (TDA) legislation which created two funding streams, Local Transportation Funds and State Transit Assistance Funds (Fuel Tax). Funding also comes through the Federal Transit Administration, charter revenue, and farebox collections. TDA funds are collected by the State and returned to the TCTC, who then allocates the funds to the claimants, the County of Tuolumne and the City of Sonora. Both the County and the City contribute funds to provide public transportation services in the Tuolumne County Region.

Tuolumne County Transit Services

Tuolumne County Transit serves the communities of Sonora, Columbia, Jamestown, Tuolumne, Twain Harte, Mi-Wuk Village, Sugar Pine, Standard, Sierra Village and point in between. Services include both fixed route and demand response (dial-a-ride) services.

These services are generally available Monday through Friday, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Saturday Dial-A-Ride Service is available to the general public and operates between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Tuolumne County Transit is in full compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons with disabilities have an opportunity to receive ADA certification from Tuolumne County Transit and, therefore, receive priority scheduling for the Dial-A-Ride Services over other patrons, as described in the DAR Policies. Additionally, all Tuolumne County Transit vehicles are wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant.

Service Performance

Tuolumne County's Transit System is evaluated on a consistent basis by Tuolumne County Transit Agency and Storer Transportation staff. Specific performance indicators, as described in Section 99246 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), are monitored monthly and reported to the transportation staff and TCTC members and public meetings on a regular basis.

Farebox Recovery Ratio

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code 99268 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), the ratio of fare revenues to operating cost shall be at least ten percent (10%). The following table shows a comparison of farebox recovery ratios for Tuolumne County Transit services.

	Year Average			
	FY14/15	FY15/16	FY16/17	FY17/18
General Services*	10.3%	9.4%	9.5%	9.5%
Specialized Services**	9.3%	12.8%	12.1%	12.1%

* General Services include Fixed Routes and SkiBUS *

* Specialized Services include all demand response services

Existing Social Service Transportation

During the development of the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan, the consultant developed a comprehensive inventory of Social Service agencies as well as other transportation providers in the Tuolumne County Region.

Currently, the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA), Area 12 Agency on Aging, County Departments of Social Services and Behavioral Health, Kingsview, Mother Lode Job Training, Sierra Senior Providers, Probation Day Reporting Center, Interfaith and Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) purchase tickets and/or passes from Tuolumne County Transit for their program participants to utilize the Tuolumne County Transit services.

Representatives from local social service agencies are encouraged to participate on the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). Currently, DRAIL, Veterans Affairs, Interfaith, Area 12 Agency on Aging, and Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA) have representatives on the SSTAC.

Social Service Transportation Coordination

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) provides broad representation of social service and transit providers representing the elderly, disabled and persons of limited means, Section 99238, of the TDA, requires the following representation on the SSTAC:

- One representative of potential transit users who are 60 year of age or older.
- One representative of potential transit users who have a disability.
- Two representatives of a local social service provider for seniors, including one representative who provides transportation.
- Two representatives of local social service providers for persons with disabilities, including one representative of a social service transportation provider, if one exists.
- One representative of a local social service provider for persons of limited means.
- Two representatives from the local consolidated transportation service agency, if one exists, including one representative from an operator, if one exists.

The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council met on October 19, 2018 to review the Unmet Transit Needs received to. At this meeting, the SSTAC unanimously approved the findings that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in the Tuolumne County region for 2018-2019.

- To annually participate in the identification of transit needs in the Tuolumne County Region, including unmet transit needs that may exist and may be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services;
- To annually review and recommend action by the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, which finds by resolution that, a) there are no unmet transit needs, b) there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, or c) there are unmet transit needs including needs that are reasonable to meet; and
- To advise the Tuolumne County Transportation Council on any other major transit issues.

Annual Assessment

Tuolumne County Transit is a small, rural public transit system that is designed to serve individuals who are likely to be transit dependent (as defined by the Transportation Development Act). Rural transit is different than large urban transit systems where traffic congestion, high cost and inconvenient parking make transit attractive to many choice riders.

The overall goal of Tuolumne County Transit is to provide services that have the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people. Equity is an important concern in any public transit operation whose funding base draws on the tax dollar. However, this must be balanced against the poor cost-effectiveness of running underutilized services. The Sonora, Columbia and Jamestown routes are considered by the TDP to be the “core” services.

The public outreach process for the December 13, 2018 Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing included a Public Notice in the local newspaper, postings on Tuolumne County Transit buses, posting on the TCTA website, and distribution of a Request for Comment Form through local agencies such as Area 12 Area Agency on Aging, Sierra Senior Providers, Interfaith and others. In addition, people were encouraged to submit comments in writing, by email or phone call if they were not able to attend the Hearing. Free transportation to the public hearing was offered to those who had no other means to attend.

Unmet Transit Needs Definitions

Through Resolution 515-15, the TCTC readopted definitions of “Unmet Transit Needs” and criteria for “Unmet Transit Needs that are Reasonable to Meet.” A copy of this Resolution is included in the Appendix. These definitions and criteria are utilized to determine the unmet transit needs findings each year.

It should be noted that, if supporting information and appropriate documentation is not presented or readily available, unmet transit needs are generally considered not reasonable to meet at this time, and are usually deferred for further study.

Unmet Transit Needs—Requests Received

The determinations made below are based upon the unmet transit needs definitions and reasonable to meet criteria adopted by the Tuolumne County Transportation Council in Resolution 515-15.

Requests & Findings

1. Expand Service to more rural areas like Stent and Algerine

The TCTC has not identified sufficient ridership to support an expansion of the transit system to areas of the County such as Stent and Algerine (among others), due to the high number of miles to service the area combined with the low ridership generated by rural single family residential. Expanding the transit system to serve this area would create a burden on the transit system to meet the minimum farebox recovery thresholds of 10%.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

2. Tuolumne County Transit should extend service to North Tuolumne Road

Tuolumne Road North is an important connection between the communities of Tuolumne and Twain Harte. Ponderosa Hills is also in the area, it is the largest subdivision along Tuolumne Road North. The area is rural with single family residences on ½ to several acre lots. Although Tuolumne Road North creates access to a significant number of residences, staff has received very few requests for transit service in the area. At this time, the current request is not considered an unmet transit need.

However, Tuolumne Trip is a program offered through Tuolumne County Transit that can assist with first mile-last mile transportation to a Tuolumne County Transit stop, or provide a mileage reimbursement to a volunteer driver to assist in completing the desired trip.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

3. A bus stop is needed at the corner of Horseshoe Bend and Shaws Flat road in Columbia

Tuolumne County Transit has served the intersection of Horseshoe Bend and Shaws Flat in the past. Historically, this area has not generated consistent ridership, which is why it is no longer a scheduled stop location. Currently, this request is the only one on file to serve this area. TCTA will continue to evaluate ridership potential at this location for future schedule updates.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

4. Additional bus pick-ups at Columbia College would be nice

Columbia College is one of the most consistently served locations in the whole TCT system. Current schedules show that TCT is at the College every 1.5 hours between 7:50am and 6:58pm for a total of 8 trips to and from Columbia daily. For a rural transit system, this consistency acknowledges the importance of the destination. We will continue to look for opportunities to further enhance service to the College, but the request does not meet the definition of unmet transit need.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

5. Transportation to Modesto (specifically the train terminal)*

Currently Tuolumne County Transit does not offer any out of county service. This is a service that we will be exploring in the recently funded Coordinated Plan and Short Range Transit Plans. As part of these studies Tuolumne County Transit Agency will determine whether or not out-of-county service (to various destinations, including Modesto) is viable (able to meet the 10% farebox recovery ratio and financially). The analysis from these studies will determine whether this request is a unmet need that is reasonable to meet.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

6. Bus service to Big Hill road

The TCTC has not identified sufficient ridership to support an expansion of the transit system to areas of the County such as Big Hill (among others, like Stent/Algerine), due to the high number of miles to service the area combined with the low ridership generated by rural single family residential. Expanding the transit system to serve this area would create a burden on the transit system to meet the minimum farebox recovery thresholds of 10%.

However, Tuolumne Trip is a program offered through Tuolumne County Transit that can assist with first mile-last mile transportation to a Tuolumne County Transit stop, or provide a mileage reimbursement to a volunteer driver to assist in completing the desired trip.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

*Two requests were received for both items 5 and 6 (husband and wife).

Finding Regarding Public Testimony For Transit Service Improvements

No comments were received from the Public during the Hearing.

Finding Regarding Unmet Transit Needs in Tuolumne County

The findings for the Unmet Transit Needs Report state that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in the Tuolumne County region for 2018-2019.

S:\TCTC_PL-020520 Unmet Transit Needs Annual Process\FY16\2014.09.12, Draft Unmet Transit Needs Findings Report.docx.doc

Appendix

Proof of Publication

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

I, **Jessica Thomas**, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of

The Union Democrat

a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Sonora, County of Tuolumne, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Tuolumne, State of California, under the date of March 21, 1952, case number 7594; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

Acct Name: TUCO CO TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Legal Description: Public Notice

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) will be holding its annual Unmet Tra

09/08/2018

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Sonora, California, this 10 day of September, 2018.

J Thomas
Signature

Public Notice
The Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) will be holding its annual Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing on October 10, 2018 at 2:00 pm in the Chambers of the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors located in downtown Sonora at 2 South Green Street on the Fourth Floor of the County Administration Building. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit comments on any unmet transit needs that may exist within Tuolumne County that might be reasonable to meet by establishing new specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services. All interested persons are invited to attend and participate. The criteria for determining an unmet transit need and whether it is reasonable to meet is established by the California Transportation Development Act and the TCTC. For information on criteria pertaining to unmet transit needs, please contact Mr. Devin Grossi, Deputy Director of Transportation, at (209) 535-5803. Transportation may be provided to the hearing, as much as reasonably possible, to those persons with no other way to access the hearing. If you need transportation, please call 535-5804 no later than 6:00 p.m. on September 26, 2018. If you are unable to attend the hearing, your input is still valued. Please send written comments to the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, 2 South Green Street, Sonora, California 95370; or www.tuolumnecountycouncil.org by September 21, 2018.
Publication date: September 8, 2018
The Union Democrat, Sonora, CA 95370

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Filed _____

By _____

From the Office of _____

Attorney for _____

No. _____

In the _____ Court of the

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
for the
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

Service Requests

Tuolumne County Transportation Council
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-0404

REQUEST *for* PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Comments will also be accepted at any Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing, or by:

- Email
- Telephone
- Online

OCT 11 2018

Name:	FRED SAULSBORY		
Address:	10678 W/94AM RD. SP 10		
Telephone:	984-4341	Email:	
<p>Please provide any comments and/or suggestions regarding the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General transportation services• Specialized transportation services• Transit accessibility; i.e. bus stops, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, park-and-ride			
<div>AFTR 1 ROOM I WER & NOW A RIDE ALL PLACES TO TOWN</div>			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee. <input type="checkbox"/> I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.			

Thank You.

Tyler Summersett

From: no-reply@parastorage.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 12:36 PM
To: TransCouncil Inbox
Subject: New message via your website, from bonnielynn1961@gmail.com

- **You have a new message:**
- Via: <https://www.tuolumnecountytransit.com/>
- **Message Details:**
 -
 - **Name** Charles Roberts
 - **Email** bonnielynn1961@gmail.com
 - **Unmet Transit Need**
 - **Message** Expanding your service to more rural areas like stent and algerine
- **Sent on:** 10 October, 2018
- Thank you!

UTN Hearing — 10.10.18 TETC Mtg

- No comments from the public

REQUEST *for* PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Tuolumne County Transportation Council

www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org

www.tuolumnecountytransit.com

Comments will be accepted at any Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing
Or by Mail, Telephone, or Email

• Mail 2 South Green St. Sonora, CA 95370
• Telephone (209) 533-5603
• E-mail transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Date: 9.26.14

Name: Michaela Wardlow

Address: Maranatha Rd, Tuolumne CA

Telephone: 209.928.4155

Email:

Please provide any comments and/or suggestions regarding the following topics:

- General transportation services
- Specialized transportation services
- Transit accessibility; i.e. bus stops, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, park and-ride

Tyler Summersett received phone call on 9.26.18

Michaela inquired about Tuolumne County Transit services along Tuolumne Rd N.

Stated she is 71 and sees the day when she will want to access TCT to travel to The Junction, Adventist Health, Walmart, Library.

Lives off Maranatha rd, has many older neighbors who may also need service soon.

The school bus stops at Maranatha @ Tuolumne Rd N, and she would like to see TCT service in this area

☐ I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee. ☐ I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.

Please place contact information above if you select one of these boxes

Thank You.

Tuolumne County Transportation Council
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-0404

REQUEST *for* PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Comments will also be accepted at any Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing, or by:

- Email
- Telephone
- Online

Name:	<u>Mary Jane Ashton</u>		
Address:	<u>22602 cedar crest rd. Sonora</u>		
Telephone:	<u>532 4867</u>	Email:	<u>Maryjane.Ashton@GMAIL.COM</u>
Please provide any comments and/or suggestions regarding the following topics:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General transportation services• Specialized transportation services• Transit accessibility; i.e. bus stops, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, park-and-ride			
<div><p><u>Transport to Modesto please</u></p><p><u>Bus Service to Big Hill rd. please</u></p><p><u>BUS Service to Modesto to be train</u> <u>terminal would bring Sonora to 21st Cent.</u></p></div>			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.			

Thank You.

Tuolumne County Transportation Council
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-0404

REQUEST *for* PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Comments will also be accepted at any Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing, or by:

- Email
- Telephone
- Online

Name:	David Ashton		
Address:	22602 Cedar Crest Rd Sonora		
Telephone:	532-4867	Email:	
Please provide any comments and/or suggestions regarding the following topics:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General transportation services• Specialized transportation services• Transit accessibility; i.e. bus stops, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, park-and-ride			
<div>Specialized Service to Modesto would be GREAT General Transport to BIG HILL Rd is needed</div>			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.			

Thank You.