



TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Draft Unmet Transit Needs Findings Report Fiscal Year 2017/18

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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, including 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 the Tuolumne County Region is the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC). The current membership rosters for the Tuolumne County Transportation Council and their Social Services Transportation Advisory Council are included on the following page.

Committee Membership Rosters

Tuolumne County Transportation Council

Member	Position	Representing	Alternate
Michael Ayala	At-Large, Chair	Community-at-Large	
Connie Williams	City Council	City of Sonora	
John Gray	County Supervisor	District 4	
Evan Royce	County Supervisor	District 3	Randy Hanvelt, D2
George Segarini	City Council	City of Sonora	

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Name	Position	Representing
Bill Tracy	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
Vickie Garrett	Member	Social Service provider for Seniors
Doreen Schmidt	Member	Social Service provider for Seniors
John Shultz	Member	Local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency, Storer
Cathy Metcalfe	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 managed and 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 (Sales Tax) 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, Sierra Village. Services include both fixed route and demand response (dial-a-ride) services.

Tuolumne County Transit Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride Services: Regular transit services provided to seniors, persons with disabilities and the general public within a designated service area including Sonora, Jamestown, Columbia, Tuolumne, Mono Village, Willow Springs, Twain Harte and Sierra Village. 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			
	FY13/14	FY14/15	FY15/16	FY16/17
General Services*	10.3%	10.3%	9.4%	9.5%
Specialized Services**	11.0%	9.3%	12.8%	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, WATCH Resources, Sierra Senior Providers, 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 January 19, 2018 to review the Unmet Transit Needs Findings Report and discuss the conclusions. At this meeting, the SSTAC unanimously approved the Unmet Transit Needs Report findings that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in the Tuolumne County region for 2017-2018.

- 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

Along with input from the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, staff utilizes information in the most current Transit Development Plan to assist in identifying the transit needs of the jurisdiction. Transit systems are evaluated and improved through a Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP is the guiding document for transit services and future expansion of service for a five year period.

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, 2017 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. Supply a Handicap Accessible bus route from Sonora to Tuttletown.

The TCTC has not identified sufficient ridership to support an expansion of the transit system to Tuttletown and Lake Melones, due to the high mileage requirements of servicing the area, and expanding the transit system, this would create an unacceptable burden on our existing transit system to meet the minimum farebox recovery thresholds of 10%.

However, through a partnership with Calaveras Transit, Tuolumne County residents can be picked up by the Calaveras Transit Red Line at Columbia College which travels towards San Andreas. Passengers can request a stop at Tuttletown which the Calaveras Transit passes by. To make this happen, a person would need to call Calaveras Transit, 754-2094, and request the bus stop in advance for Tuttletown.

Determination: This is an unmet transit need that is not reasonable to meet.

2. It would be nice if the bus went down Columbia Way, near Sonora High School, and by the old car wash along the former State Highway.

There is a bus stop on North Washington/Shaws Flat Road at Sonora High School which is approximately 750 feet away. The TCTC defines Unmet Transit Needs to specifically exclude minor operational improvements or changes involving issues such as bus tops, schedules and minor route changes. Since there is a bus stop so close to this unmet transit need request, this request does meet the criteria set by the TCTC for the Definitions of the Unmet Transit Needs in Resolution 515-15.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

3. The routes need to go back to what they were before, now we have to wait even longer for the bus compared to before.

Tuolumne County Transit Agency changed its schedules on November 1st, 2017. This change was necessary because of the addition of new Transit Center and the elimination of Route 6 for farebox recovery issues.

This particular request does not respond to the specific definitions of the unmet transit needs criterion which focuses on new transit service requests within the Tuolumne County region. This request does meet the criteria set by the TCTC for the Definitions of the Unmet Transit Needs in Resolution 515-15.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

4. I need transportation from my house to my destinations in the Sonora region.

A member of the public spoke at the December 13, 2017 Public Hearing Meeting, and she stated Dial-A-Ride service is not available to pick her up at the her house because she the bus cannot access her house. She stated she cannot safely drive anymore and she needs someone to drive her personal vehicle. The Tuolumne Trip Program was mentioned during the public hearing as a potential option for the speaker.

The Tuolumne TRIP (Transportation Reimbursement and information Program) is a volunteer driver reimbursement program, designed as a low-cost, customer-driven approach for providing transportation for those that have needs not being met by current transportation programs, through mileage reimbursement to volunteer drivers. Rides are negotiated between the rider and a volunteer driver of their choosing and are utilized when needed.

After the public hearing, it was uncovered through discussion with the speaker; she currently resides in location that is within the Dial-A-Ride service area. She is eligible to use either the Dial-A-Ride service or the Trip Program.

Determination: This transit need is currently being met with the existing Dial-a-Ride service or the Trip Program.

5. The Transit fleet should switch to Biodiesel.

A member of the public spoke at the December 13, 2017 Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Meeting, and requested our Transit fleet should switch to running on biodiesel.

This particular request does not respond to the specific definitions of the unmet transit needs criterion which focuses on new transit service requests within the Tuolumne County region. This request does meet the criteria set by the TCTC for the Definitions of the Unmet Transit Needs in Resolution 515-15.

Determination: This is not an unmet transit need.

Finding Regarding Public Testimony For Transit Service Improvements

Tuolumne County Transit strives to respond to the needs of the community and the system ridership. 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 2017-2018.

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, **Carole Walker**, 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: Unmet annual TUO CO TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Legal Description: PUBLIC NOTICE

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

11/01/2017

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

Dated at Sonora, California, this 1 day of November, 2017.

Carole Walker
Signature

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) will be holding its annual Unmet Transit needs public hearing on December 13, 2017 at 3:00 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. Darin Grossi, Deputy Director of Transportation, at (209) 535-5603. 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 532-0404 no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 29, 2017. If you are unable to attend the hearing, your input is still desired. Please send written comments to the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, 2 South Green Street, Sonora, California 95370, or www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org by November 24, 2017.

Publication Date: November 1, 2017
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

Name:	<input type="text" value="Douglas Brier"/>		
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text" value="dougbreroz219@gmail.com"/>
<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><p>I think the county needs to supply a handicap accessible bus route from Tuttletown into Sonora. This way people can enjoy a day at Lake Melones.</p></div>			
<p><input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.</p>			

Thank You.

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: DEC. 5th 2017

Name: RACHEL Slater

Address:

Telephone: unlisted 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

THE Routes Need to go back
to what they were before, now
we have to wait even longer
for the bus, compared to b-4.

☐ 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.

Interfaith

REQUEST for PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Tuolumne County Transportation Council

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

www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org

• Mail 2 South Green St. Sonora, CA 95370

www.tuolumnecountytransit.com

• Telephone (209) 533-5603

• E-mail transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Date: OCT 24th, 2017

Name: RACHEL SLATE

Address: GENERAL Delivery SONORA CA 95370

Telephone: (209) 206-6622 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

Some of the drivers are really rude to the passengers. There is one driver who threw my husband's walker on the bus & my husband yelled @ him big time. It would be nice if the bus went down Columbia Way by the Sonora High School, the old highway were there also used to be a carwash as I once heard. If it did go that way then I would be riding my of ten providing the fares don't go sky high.

THANK YOU

☐ 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.