

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 9, 2019

UC Extension - Farm Advisors' Conference Room

890 North Bush Street, Ukiah

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacob King, Mendocino Transit Authority
Diana Clarke, Ukiah Senior Center (Alternate)
Richard Baker, Willits Harrah Senior Center

STAFF PRESENT

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Executive Director
Janet Orth, MCOG Deputy Director / CFO
Monica Galliani, MCOG Admin. Assistant
Dawn White, MTA

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carla Meyer, MTA
Sheila Keys, Redwood Coast Regional Center
Arlene Peterson, Action Network
Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health
Dena Eddings, Area Agency on Aging (Interim)
Jill Rexrode, Redwood Coast Seniors

MEMBER VACANCIES

Potential “handicapped” transit user
Potential transit user at least 60 years of age

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. Self-introductions were made around the table.

2. Public Expression. None.

3. Minutes. The meeting minutes of May 21, 2019 were provided for information. No action was taken.

4. Annual Review of SSTAC Membership. The membership roster was reviewed, noting two positions will expire in April 2020 (one of these positions is filled by two members).

Also long-time member Marilyn DeFrange (whose term expires in 2022) is due to retire in April, and Alternate Diana Clarke plans to retire in 2020. Marilyn and Diana of Ukiah Senior Center represent the “Local social service provider for the handicapped that provides transportation.” Discussion of who could fill the seat; two nominations were made, both employees of Ukiah Seniors: Heather Haydon, outreach coordinator, and Kathy Sheehy, dispatcher (retired from DMV). Also Dawn White of Mendocino Transit Authority was nominated as an Alternate for “Representative of local Consolidated Transportation Services Agency.”

A total of three positions are due for appointment. Typically the SSTAC nominates volunteers to be formally appointed by MCOG’s Board of Directors.

Recommendation:

Upon motion by King, seconded by Clarke, and carried unanimously by those present, the SSTAC nominated the following for appointment to the SSTAC:

- “Representative of local Consolidated Transportation Services Agency” (MTA) – *reappoint Carla Meyer and appoint Dawn White as Alternate*
- “Local social service provider for the handicapped that provides transportation” – *appoint Kathy Sheehy and Heather Haydon as Alternate*

5. 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs Workshop and Recommendation – *Compile a list of Unmet Transit Needs and identify other transportation needs and potential solutions.* Nephele referred to Janet’s written staff report outlining the annual process. Today’s workshop is the first step of the funding cycle for the coming fiscal year. Discussion of unmet needs included the following.

- Diana noted that a passenger van did not appear on last year's list as it was to be separately funded, but is still a need. The new list was started with a replacement passenger mini-van for expanded service to remote or inaccessible roads in Ukiah Senior Center territory.
- Richard reported a recent maintenance issue with a Willits Seniors vehicle, such that the senior center now needs a new vehicle. They did not apply for federal grant funds as the need was unknown during the application time frame.
- Diana stated that MTA had characterized its Dial-A-Ride service as equivalent to senior center specialized services. She suggested listing a future need on the SSTAC's list of General Transportation Recommendations, since the seniors' contracted service may be in jeopardy.
- Jacob reviewed status of last year's needs that MCOG found "reasonable to meet" as listed in the staff report:
 - 1) #M-7, bus stop on East Gobbi Street, has been reviewed by City of Ukiah's traffic engineering committee and awaits City Council approval, expected by end of January.
 - 2) #M-10, more service on Talmage Road, MTA has addressed by reducing fares for Talmage Road service and expanding the service area, intended to alleviate the problem.
 - 3) #M14, pulse system at Navarro Junction, was addressed by MTA's Route Committee with some initial planning, but a shortage of drivers makes this infeasible for the near term. "Pulse system" is described as multiple short trips of the same runs and timing of three routes to meet at a central point for transfers. It was agreed to add this need to the new list.

The group next reviewed MTA's list of needs comprising public testimony at board meetings:

- Janet noted needs for the new cycle start with January 2019; prior listings were considered last year.
- Richard discussed Brooktrails needs and the difficulty of getting transit vehicles to some areas, where roads or driveways are too steep or lack sufficient undercarriage clearance. Private taxis might be able to reach these areas. It was agreed to add "Service for disabled transit riders on inaccessible roads and driveways" to the list.
- Richard reported that Willits Seniors has spoken with Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital about Non-Emergency Medical Transportation and a future possibility of contracting for service with the appropriate types of vehicles. He noted the vehicles were costly at \$50,000 to \$60,000 each.
- It was confirmed that service to The Woods retirement community is still a need.
- It was noted MTA stops at the Food Bank in Willits currently, so is not an unmet need. (This will be addressed in the analysis step.)
- The group agreed to endorse MTA's list of 13 needs for the SSTAC's recommended unmet needs.

Discussion of last year's (FY 2019/20) list included:

- #S-4, Wheelchair accessible door-through-door assisted services...Wednesdays in Ukiah, was considered still a need and added to the new list.
- #M-5, Willits Senior Center request for more Local Transportation Funds, was considered. It was agreed to add this to General Transportation Recommendations for any of the senior centers to maintain current service levels.
- #S-2, Weekend and after-hours rides for seniors and disabled adults, was added to the new list, noting opportunities for transportation to various entertainment venues.
- #M-4, Willits High School service, is a need that cannot be provided by MTA due to regulations. However, MTA staff reported a new agreement with Superintendent Mark Westerburg that MTA will be allowed to use the school's driveway to drop off students on its regular route.

Five needs were recommended for the new list, in addition to MTA's 13 new needs. Janet reviewed procedure for submitting more testimony between now and the February public hearing.

Recommendation:

By consensus, the SSTAC recommended submittal of the attached list of 18 Unmet Transit Needs as testimony for MCOG's public hearing and one General Transportation Recommendation.

6. Miscellaneous / Information / Announcements. Janet stated her requested analysis of Transportation Development Act (TDA) reporting guidelines, for the senior centers under contract with MTA, was nearly complete and would be distributed imminently for review and comment. Discussion followed. A second meeting to continue the September 17 senior centers workshop likely will be scheduled in the coming months.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Submitted by Janet Orth, Deputy Director / CFO

Attached:
FY 2020/21 SSTAC recommendations



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FY 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs
Recommended by
MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Identified at Annual SSTAC Workshop
(not in any order of priority)

December 9, 2019

Needs Identified by SSTAC:

1. Passenger van for expanded service to remote or inaccessible areas in Ukiah Senior Center's service territory
2. Reconsider a pulse system at the Navarro Junction for buses to Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Gualala and Point Arena
3. Service for disabled transit riders on inaccessible roads and driveways
4. Wheelchair accessible door-through-door assisted services for seniors and disabled adults on Wednesdays in the Ukiah area
5. Weekend and after-hours rides for seniors and disabled adults.

Needs Identified by Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA):

1. Increased round trips between Ukiah and Hopland – evening, morning and weekend
2. Increased weekend round trips between Santa Rosa and Fort Bragg
3. Increased service along Highway 1 to and from Fort Bragg
4. Increased service between Willits and Fort Bragg, and Fort Bragg and Mendocino
5. Service to The Woods retirement community in Little River, either fixed route or as needed
6. Summer service to Todd Grove Park in Ukiah
7. Additional northbound stops in Willits
8. Brooktrails service
9. Connection with Humboldt Transit
10. Service to Covelo, Leggett, and Laytonville
11. Round trip to City of Ten Thousand Buddhas Temple in Ukiah/Talmage
12. Saturday service on Willits Local Route 1
13. Additional stop in Willits at Food Bank

TOTAL of 18 Recommended Unmet Transit Needs



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FY 2020/2021

General Transportation Recommendations of MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

December 9, 2019

1. Consideration of additional allocations of Local Transportation Funds to maintain service levels of Senior Centers' existing transportation programs.