

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

May 17, 2021

Teleconference Only - Remote Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Baker, Willits Senior Center
Sheila Keys, Redwood Coast Regional Center
Jacob King, Mendocino Transit Authority
Dawn White, Mendocino Transit Authority
Luis Martinez, MTA Alternate

MEMBERS EXCUSED/ABSENT

Rachael McDavid, Ukiah Senior Center
Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health
Jill Rexrode, Redwood Coast Seniors

MEMBER VACANCIES

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

STAFF PRESENT

Nephele Barrett
Janet Orth
Monica Galliani

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Expression. None.

3. Minutes of November 16, 2020. The minutes from the November meeting were included in the packet for information and reference. Due to the length of time between meetings, the minutes had been finalized. No action was taken.

4. Review and Recommendation on MTA’s Analysis and Prioritization of 2021/22 Unmet Transit Needs. Janet reviewed the annual process to date, the Transit Productivity Committee (TPC) recommendation that “there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet,” and next steps, as detailed in her written staff report. MCOG’s Board of Directors is to make a formal finding by resolution as part of budget adoption at its June 7 meeting. The MTA voting representatives present had participated in the April TPC meeting. It was noted the TPC made additional recommendations for actions that would better position a number of the identified needs to be met in future. Jacob noted that 14 staff members had left MTA since the pandemic started, some to retirement and others leaving the area. Discussion included review of MTA’s analysis:

- **#S-4**, Willits weekday door-through-door service after 4pm and weekend service, is provided by Willits Seniors through a Dial-A-Ride contract with MTA, and also by Redwood Taxi. (Richard)
- **#S-2**, Wednesday service for Ukiah Senior Center; the center receives CRRSAA federal coronavirus relief funds and has vehicles, so could be a candidate for FTA Section 5310 grant funding—worth exploring in the next cycle. (Nephele)
- **#S-6**, Fixed Route service to Hopland, is provided by partial Route 65 currently, with MTA taking a phased approach to restoring service, as well as considering early and late schedules for local workers. (Jacob) The Hopland Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) meets this week, an opportunity to talk about MCOG’s planning grant proposal submitted to Caltrans for studying feasibility of innovative mobility solutions. (Nephele)
- **#S-9**, Mobility solutions for remote communities, considered “High Priority”; both MCOG and MTA have planning grant applications pending Caltrans decisions in June. If awarded, the resulting plans would address the remote areas identified in the needs list. (Nephele, Jacob)
- **#S-8**, Service to Covelo and Laytonville; MTA is open to seeking mobility solutions for these communities. (Jacob)

- **#M-5**, Round-trip service from Ukiah to South Coast and from Ukiah to Fort Bragg/Mendocino; MTA has added Route 60 service to The Woods retirement community in Little River, although it is infeasible to connect with Route 65 to Sonoma County due to timing. (Jacob)
- **#M-3**, Research on clean mobility grants for bikes and scooters; MTA can carry these on a bus rack as long as they are not gasoline powered. (Jacob)

It was noted the list was shorter than at many times in the past, which could be COVID related. Typically there are more needs coming through MTA, while this year more were generated by the SSTAC. Jacob stated that restoration of service is MTA's main focus currently.

Recommendation:

Upon motion by Baker, seconded by Keys, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*4 Ayes – Baker, Keys, King, White; 0 Noes; 3 Absent*), the SSTAC recommends a finding that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet for Fiscal Year 2021/22.

5. Discussion/ Recommendation on Any Other Transportation Issues. No further issues were raised.

6. Members' Concerns / Announcements

- a. Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan – Adopted May 3, 2021, posted at www.mendocinocog.org. Nephele summarized status of the 2021 update for Mendocino County. A major purpose of the plan is to qualify projects for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 grant program.
Sheila reported that Redwood Coast Regional Center had government resources to serve clientele during the coronavirus pandemic by going out to meet and transport them. She anticipated they would be able to return to using MTA's services soon. In discussion, Jacob was encouraging and Sheila noted the clients liked the independence of riding the transit system.
- b. CARES Act and Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Funds. Nephele reported that those agencies that received FTA 5310 funds in the last cycle were eligible for the 2021 CRRSAA operating grants: Coastal Seniors, Ukiah Senior Center and Consolidated Tribal Health. The funding is 100 percent federal, with no local match required. Another potential stimulus bill may open eligibility to more applicants.
- c. Miscellaneous. Nephele noted that public outreach and engagement was still open for the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. She encouraged those who had not yet participated to access the online survey and interactive tools at MCOG's website. Sheila reported forwarding the link and that staff had found the survey easy to use.

7. Adjournment. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.