

+Fresno Council of Governments

FY 2024/2025 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment



Fresno Council
of Governments

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 14, 2024

TO: Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee (TTC), Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and the General Public.

FROM: Robert Phipps, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: FY2024-2025 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATION

On June 12, 2024, as part of the Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Assessment process, the Social Services Transit Advisory Committee (SSTAC) made the finding that there are ~~four~~ **five** unmet transit needs, none of them being reasonable to meet within County of Fresno.

The TTC/PAC is being asked to approve the UTN and make a finding that there are five unmet transit needs, none of them being reasonable to meet within County of Fresno.

BACKGROUND

The Fresno Council of Governments, in its role as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, administers claims for the Transportation Development Act (TDA). At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Fresno COG must determine the amount of TDA funds available from the TDA Local Transportation Fund (LTF) for allocation to local agencies within Fresno County. Allocations are made in four categories: bicycle and pedestrian facilities, social service transportation, regional transportation planning, and public transportation. In certain cases, funding from the public transportation category can be applied to local streets and roads in individual jurisdictions if a finding has been made that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within the jurisdiction; however, public transit must be given priority. As a result, prior to allocating LTF funds for any use other than public transit in the public transportation category, the Fresno COG must identify any unmet public transit needs that may exist in Fresno County that are reasonable to meet.

The Unmet Transit Needs Assessment process is conducted to identify any unmet transit needs and make any related findings.

DISCUSSION

On April 25, 2024, the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), met as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Fresno County for a legally noticed Public Hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public testimony to determine if public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025), prior to approving LTF claims for local streets and roads. The time and place of the Public Hearing that was legally noticed is as follows:

Date: April 25, 2024
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia Room

2035 Tulare St., Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721-2004

One person spoke at the Public Hearing for the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment. Policy Advocate, Emmanuel Agraz-Torres, from Leadership Counsel reiterated key points from a letter that was received from Leadership Counsel earlier that morning, titled 'Fresno County Unmet Transit Needs Assessment 2024' This letter is contained in Exhibit E-1 of this report while Fresno COG's response to the letter is contained in Exhibit E-2.

Transportation Development Act – Local Transportation Funds

Transportation Development Act (TDA) - Local Transportation Funds are derived from the state sales tax. One-quarter of a cent of the state sales tax is allocated to the Local Transportation Fund and may be used for transportation projects. In FY 2024-2025, the estimated Local Transportation Fund amount for Fresno County is \$59 million, of which \$196,846 is programmed for administration and audits. The remaining \$58,803,154 is programmed by formula for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, social service transportation planning, regional transportation planning, and public transportation and streets and roads. Table 1 identifies the amount of projected funding by category that each local agency will receive in FY 2024-2025.

Of the Local Transportation Funds available for public transportation and streets and roads, priority must first be given to public transportation. The net difference may then be available for street and road projects.

**Table 1
Available TDA - Local Transportation Funds
For Projects by Local Agencies FY 2024-2025**

Agency	Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities	Social Service Transportation	Regional Transportation Planning	Public Transportation	Total
Clovis	144,782	372,271	202,188	6,537,416	7,256,657
Coalinga	20,041		27,988	904,937	952,966
Firebaugh	9,877		13,793	445,985	469,655
Fowler	8,334		11,639	376,318	396,291
Fresno City	631,839		882,365	28,529,790	30,043,994
Huron	7,120		9,944	321,508	338,572
Kerman	19,713		27,530	890,132	937,375
Kingsburg	14,958		20,889	675,408	711,250
Mendota	14,491		20,236	654,303	689,030
Orange Cove	11,003		15,365	496,804	523,172
Parlier	16,745		23,385	756,100	796,230
Reedley	29,510		41,211	1,332,994	1,403,215
Sanger	30,510		42,608	1,377,644	1,450,762
San Joaquin	4,195		5,858	189,419	199,472
Selma	28,253		39,456	1,275,742	1,343,451
Fresno County	184,689		257,918	8,339,363	8,781,970
FCRTA		819,991			819,991
FAX		1,689,093			1,689,093
Total	1,176,061	2,881,355	1,642,373	53,103,363	58,803,154

Pursuant to Section 99401.5 of the California Public Utilities Code (PUC), Fresno COG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, must make one of the following findings after holding a Public Hearing:

1. There are no unmet transit needs,
2. There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, or
3. There are unmet needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

DEFINITION OF "UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS," AND "NEEDS THAT ARE REASONABLE TO MEET"

Section 99401.5(c) of the California Public Utilities Code specifies, "The transportation planning agency shall determine its definitions of the terms 'unmet transit needs' and 'reasonable to meet' for the purposes of this section which shall be documented by resolution or within the minutes of the agency."

The Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) defined these terms by Resolution 1990-15, adopted on June 28, 1990, as follows:

A. Unmet Transit Needs

"Those public transportation or specialized transportation services that are identified in the Regional Transportation Plan and/or documented through COFCG's Annual Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Process that have not been implemented or funded."

B. Reasonable to Meet

"Those public transportation services identified in the Regional Transportation Plan, or proposed amendment thereto, which meet the following criteria:

- (1) Services which, if implemented or funded, would not cause the responsible operator or service claimant to exceed its appropriations limitation as set forth by Proposition 4 (Gann Limit)
- (2) Services which, if implemented or funded, would not cause the responsible operator to incur expenditures in excess of the maximum amount of:
 - (a) Local Transportation Funds and State Transit Assistance Funds which may be available for such operator to claim.
 - (b) Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) funds or other support for public transportation services which are committed by Federal and/or State agencies by formula or tentative approval of specific grant requests; and
 - (c) Farebox and local funding in compliance with PUC Section 99268 et.seq.

The fact that an identified need cannot fully be met based on available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding a transit need is not reasonable to meet.

- (3) Services which, if implemented or funded, would result in the responsible operator or service claimant meeting the farebox recovery and local support requirements as set forth by PUC Section 99268 et. seq. Evaluation of existing operators shall be based on records provided to Council of Fresno County Governments by operators pursuant to the Transit Productivity Evaluation Process (PUC Section 99244)

Evaluation of proposed new service shall be based upon a feasibility analysis, which includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Forecast of anticipated ridership if service is provided;
- (b) Estimate of capital and operating costs for the provision of such services;
- (c) Estimate of fares and local support in relation to estimated operating costs for providing such services; and
- (d) An estimated fare, which the Council of Fresno County Governments Board would determine to be sufficient to meet farebox recovery requirements but would not be so high it would pose a financial burden on transit dependent patrons.”

Note: Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) was called Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was called the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) at the time Resolution 1990-15 was adopted.

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC)

The Fresno COG Policy Board established its Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) on May 26, 1988, to aid in its review of transit issues with an emphasis on the annual identification of transit needs within Fresno County. These needs include the needs of transit-dependent and transit disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means. Fresno COG's establishment of this Advisory Council is consistent with State Law (SB 498, Chapter 673, 1987), which mandates both the purpose and minimum membership of this body. A list of SSTAC members is included with this report (Exhibit A).

The purpose of the SSTAC is to:

- (1) Annually participate in identification of transit needs (Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Process)
- (2) Review and recommend appropriate action by the Fresno COG for a jurisdiction which finds by resolution, that:
 - (a) There are no unmet transit needs;
 - (b) There are no unmet transit needs, which are reasonable to meet; or
 - (c) There are unmet transit needs, which are reasonable to meet.
- (3) Advise Fresno COG on any other major transit issues, including the coordination and consolidation of specialized transportation services.

FY 2024-2025 SSTAC UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PROCESS

The SSTAC has developed an annual process for soliciting unmet transit need comments from the public. The timeline for the public notification process is contained within Exhibit B while the actual flyers themselves in English and Spanish are found as Exhibits B-1 and B-2, respectively.

Flyers along with comment forms in both English and Spanish were sent to 351 agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County. A discussion and summary of those who were sent the flyers is included in Exhibit B-3.

The electronic copy of the flyer and comment form was sent to 2,130 people that receive the electronic newsletter, 'Coming Up at Fresno COG'. Respondents were requested to include the following information to assist staff in an initial evaluation of unmet transit needs:

- Where new service is needed, and where the potential trips would start and end;
- When, and how often trips would need to be scheduled; and
- A description of the individuals needing the service, including age group, financial constraints, and whether they have disabilities requiring special services.

Members of the community and stakeholders were also able to submit public comments and their transit needs electronically and through US Mail. An email address was set up at comments@fresnocog.org as well as unmet.transit.needs@publicinput.com to receive comments electronically, and the mailing address was posted as follows:

Brenda Thomas
Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Ste. 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Public outreach of the current cycle of the UTN process consisted of seven events: including six scheduled in-person meetings, and one 'virtual' meeting. Of the six in-person events, four were held in urban areas and two were held in rural cities. The single online public outreach meeting was held through ZOOM.

For the urban component of the UTN process, three in-person events were held in the City of Fresno while one in-person public meeting was held in the City of Clovis. For the meetings in the City of Fresno, the event locales were all public spaces, with one meeting taking place on a Saturday morning for those unable to attend during the week. This meeting was held at 10:00 AM PST, on a Saturday morning at the Maxie L. Parks Community Center at 1802 E. California Ave., Fresno, CA 93706.

The single urban public outreach meeting in Clovis took place at the Armstrong Transit Center at Landmark Square Transit Training Room 785, on Third Street, Clovis, CA 93612. All of these events were marketed through Fresno COG, Clovis Transit, FCRTA, and FAX marketing channels.

This year, as in previous years, outreach in rural Fresno County took place in two cities, specifically in Kerman and Reedley.

Whereas, in previous years, rural public outreach meetings for the UTN took place at City Council meetings, this year, these meetings were held at Fresno County Housing Authority apartments. One of these meetings was very well attended by community residents. As a result, we look forward to collaborating with the Housing Authority next year on public outreach for the Unmet Transit Needs process in rural communities.

Over the years, Fresno COG has invested heavily in developing relationships with community stakeholders. One way that this has been implemented through the Unmet Needs Process is by maintaining an open door to opportunities to talk about the Unmet Transit Needs process. While additional meetings have been held in prior years, requests for additional meetings were not received this year.

In addition to in-person public meetings, public outreach activities for the FY2024-2025 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment consisted of:

- A live ZOOM meeting.
- An online survey
- A toll-free phone number
- A dedicated email address
- Social media posts

ZOOM Meetings

The single ZOOM meeting was held on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 1:30 PM. All meetings were well publicized in advance of the events through the UTN Mailing lists. Specific details of each in-person ZOOM meeting are provided below.

Online Survey

In recent years, an online survey has become an increasingly important part of the Unmet Transit Needs public outreach process with surveys in both English and Spanish. It has become the channel through which Fresno COG receives the most responses.

The purpose of the online survey was to solicit specific perceived unmet transit needs within Fresno County. While conventional paper-based surveys were made available, an overwhelming majority of respondents provided their information through a survey created through PublicInput.com, a public outreach platform for Government agencies and consultants. The details of the survey are provided below.

In addition to managing the online survey for the UTN, the PublicInput.com platform was used to manage an 800-number, an sms (text) number, comments from FCOG social media channels, and a dedicated email inbox. Stakeholders and prospective respondents could call or text (855) 925-2801, 24 hours a day, or send an email to comments@fresnocog.org and unmet.transit.need@publicinput.com to submit their comments for the Unmet Transit Needs process. Comments and feedback received through these channels were received by the publicinput.com platform

The UTN cycle for FY2021-2022 was the first year to run an online survey and was done so in response to the suspension of in-person meetings because of COVID. Because of the overwhelming number of responses, the decision was made to make the online survey an essential component of public outreach for all future cycles of the UTN Assessment.

Public Outreach Event Details

The minimum requirements to satisfy the public outreach requirements for the Unmet Transit Needs process is a public hearing that is publicly noticed thirty days prior to the hearing. The public hearing scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting satisfies this requirement.

In FY2024-2025, public outreach for the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment consisted of six in-person meetings, a single virtual meeting, an online survey, a mail-in comment card, and a public hearing. The Fresno COG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment public outreach process exceeded the minimum public outreach requirements. Details of the FY2024-2025 Fresno COG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment are as follows:

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 1 – Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in the City of Kerman.

The first in-person public meeting took place within rural Fresno County, on Tuesday, February 27, 2023, at 5:30 PM PST, in the City of Kerman, at the Granada Commons Apartments, a Fresno Housing apartment complex at:

Granada Commons Apartments
14570 West California Ave.
Kerman, CA 93630

The people present at this meeting included:

- Harold Sobrado, Fresno COG and FAX
- Moses Stites, FCRTA
- Eunice Gomez, Housing Authority

As with all in-person public events, this event was marketed through all Fresno COG marketing channels, including its newsletter. It was also advertised to the residents of the 15-unit Granada Commons apartment complex.

This event started when Harold arrived first at this meeting. Shortly after his arrival, he was joined by Eunice Jordan, the Property Manager for the location and had an extensive conversation with her about transit needs. Eunice's work with the Housing Authority takes her to a couple of San Joaquin Valley counties each week. She has personal transportation and does not use public transit. However, many of the people she works with do. Overall, she said that transit service within Fresno County has improved in recent years.

Harold and Eunice were later joined by Moses Stites from FCRTA, who joined in on the conversation. No specific comments or feedback was received.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 2 – Wednesday, February 28, 2024, in the City of Fresno

The second in-person public meeting took place within metropolitan Fresno County, on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 5:30 PM PST in the City of Fresno at:

Mosqueda Community Center
4670 E. Butler Ave.,
Fresno, CA 93702

The people present at this meeting were:

- Harold Sobrado, Fresno COG and FAX
- Rocky Vang, Fresno County
- Gregory Barfield, FAX
- Drew Wilson, FAX

Like all in-person public events, this event was marketed through all Fresno COG marketing channels, including its newsletter, and social media channels. A children's Polynesian dance class was taking place at the same time as this meeting. While no conversations were to be had with parents attending the class, discussions took place with other people who were at the Community Center for other reasons. These people were the manager of the Community Center and a librarian working at the onsite library.

The manager of the Mosqueda Community Center had mentioned that they (Mosqueda Community Center) hosted several events with different groups throughout the day and week serving clientele that are also transit riders. She suggested that Fresno COG staff coordinate the public outreach meetings around the schedules of events at community centers where there is significant overlap between end users.

Mosqueda Branch Library shares the same building with the Mosqueda Community Center and services the surrounding community, especially during after-school hours. While not a current transit rider, the librarian said that he had used transit service in the past and found it to be a very valuable service for those dependent upon public transit.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 3, – Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 10:30 AM in the City of Fresno.

The public outreach meeting held at the Maxie L. Parks Community Center was the only weekend event scheduled this year. Held on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 10:30 AM, this meeting was staffed by Harold Sobrado with Carolina Ilic, Assistant Director of Fresno Area Express.

The people attending this event, included:

- Harold Sobrado, FCOG and FAX
- Carolina Ilic, FAX
- Cordet

Cordet is a high school student and frequent FAX transit rider who, with his family, relies extensively upon public transit for their transportation needs. He and his sibling rely on FAX to get to and from school as well as travel throughout the city. Cordet in many regards is the prototypical transit rider that FAX seeks to serve as mobility through public transit is a lifeline and refuge for people in similar circumstances. As with many teens in low-income, minority communities, his domestic situation can best be described as volatile and transitional. As a result, his 31-day bus pass, provided free of charge to him through the school district he attends, is an essential tool in his quest to become a productive member of society.

Many school-aged children throughout the City of Fresno rely on FAX to get to and from school every day. As a result, buses and bus routes servicing elementary, middle school, and high schools, can see large spikes in student ridership at times right before the school session begins and after it ends. Unfortunately, many of the same issues that these schools deal with spill over onto the buses that these same students rely upon for transportation. As a result, Cordet said that he had seen and experienced bullying firsthand, while riding the bus.

When asked about unmet transit needs and his experience riding FAX, he said that he is happy overall, with the service he receives. When asked if there were anything he would change, he states there is nothing.

Virtual Public Outreach Meeting Number 1 – Monday, March 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM, on ZOOM

The first and only virtual public outreach

Harold Sobrado, FCOG and FAX
Jake Martinez, FCOG
Denise Flores, FCOG
Amy Hance, Clovis Transit
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA
Carolina Ilic, FAX
Thomas Dulin, FEOC
Lorena Mendibles, Caltrans
Mariana Alvaranga, Leadership Counsel
Esther Ramirez

Harold Sobrado opened the meeting with introductions of transit agency representatives on the call. He then proceeded to go through a slide presentation describing the Unmet Transit Needs process and the role of the public outreach process.

Next, transit agency representatives were given the opportunity to discuss recent developments within their respective agencies. When none seized the opportunity, Harold proceeded to describe successes to have emerged from the Unmet Transit Needs process. Successes by agency, include:

FAX: Service to Clovis Community College and Amazon at North Pointe Industrial Park came from feedback received during the UTN, as did extended night and weekend service.

FCRTA: FCRTA has run 9 pilot projects over the years to test demand for rural transit service from feedback received during the UTN. If there is sufficient demand to justify the cost for a route, the pilot project becomes a permanent route. Of the nine pilot projects run over the years, only one has demonstrated sufficient demand to become a permanent route: service between Reedley College and surrounding cities.

Clovis Transit: Is in the process of undergoing an extensive route redesign exercise, which should be completed by the end of this year, or the beginning of 2025. Clovis Transit is incorporating the feedback received through the Unmet Transit Needs process into the route design process.

Mariana Alvaranga of the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability took the opportunity to mention priorities of stakeholders that her group works with, mainly the residents of the communities of Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanier, and Tombstone Territories. These issues have been identified in prior cycles of the Unmet Transit Needs process, and include:

- For Cantua Creek, the community would like a sidewalk between the school and the community. They would also like a fence to serve as protection between pedestrians and traffic. They would also like funding to create a crosswalk between the old fire house and the community.
- For El Porvenir, the community would like a crosswalk to the local park and transportation two days a week between El Porvenir and Three Rocks. Mariana was kind and acknowledged FCRTA's efforts to implement pilot projects to test demand for such services.
- For the community of Tombstone, they would like bike lanes and sidewalks.

These are all valid needs. However, they fall outside of the scope of the Unmet Transit Needs process. FCOG and participating transit agencies will continue acknowledging and forwarding them to the appropriate agencies and/or municipal departments.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting #6 – Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 5:30 PM, in the City of Fresno

The fifth in-person public outreach meeting within metropolitan Fresno County, took place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 5:30 PM in Pinedale within the City of Fresno, at:

Pinedale Community Center
7170 N. San Pablo Ave.
Pinedale, CA 93650

Several agencies were represented at this public outreach meeting, including:

Harold Sobrado, FCOG and FAX
Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit
Carolina Ilic, FAX
Nide Chin, Clovis Transit
Susan Herrera, Clovis Transit

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, was also election night in California with another room within this complex serving double duty as a polling place. As a result, there was additional foot-traffic throughout the complex, but no interest in the Unmet Transit Needs process.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 5 – Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM, in the City of Clovis

The fifth in-person public outreach meeting within metropolitan Fresno County, took place on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the City of Clovis, at:

Armstrong Transit Center and Landmark Square Transit Training Center
785 Third Street,
Clovis, CA 93612

Several agencies were represented at this public outreach meeting, including:

Harold Sobrado, FCOG and FAX
Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Drew Wilson, FAX

All attendees of the meeting were transit agency employees.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 6 – Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM, in Rural Eastside Fresno County

The sixth and final in-person public meeting took place in rural Fresno County, on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30 PM, in the City of Reedley, at:

Paseo 55 Apartments
1764 12th Street
Reedley, CA 93664

Attendees to this meeting include:

Barbara Cuening, Reedley
Elizabeth Koop, Reedley
Elsie Aguirre, Reedley
Marcella McIntosh, Reedley
James Kirkman, Reedley
Ermelinda Maldonado, Reedley
Dominique McCamai, Reedley,
Moses Stites, FCRTA

This meeting was the second meeting to be held at a Housing Authority property, in this case the 55-unit Paseo 55 Apartments, in Reedley, California. This meeting was overseen by Moses Stites of FCRTA.

The meeting started with an educational process. First, as what the Unmet Transit Needs process is, followed by information about their transit options.

When asked about unmet transit needs, participants brought up the following:

- Request that an FCRTA bus stop be located closer to their apartment complex rather than two blocks away at City Hall
- Questions about the electric vehicle charger located at Reedley City Hall that was paid for by FCRTA.
- Transit options into Fresno, specifically the Herndon and Millbrook area for doctor's appointments.

At the end of the discussion, Moses brought up to the group how participants can take the Orange Cove Transit into Fresno, transferring to FAX, to be taken to their final destinations.

Overall, staff was happy with the level of participation at meetings located at Housing Authority properties and will plan to do this again for next year's Unmet Transit Needs process.

Public Hearing, Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 5:30 PM, at:

The final component of the FY2024-25 Public Outreach process was a formal public hearing that took place as part of the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting.

There was one speaker that attended the public hearing, Emmanuel Agraz-Torres, Policy Advocate for Leadership Counsel spoke to the Board, reiterating key points made in a two-page letter received earlier that morning from Leadership Counsel. The letter received along with the response from Fresno COG is contained in Exhibits E-1 and E-2, starting on pages 75, and 77 of this report, respectively.

Every year, Leadership Counsel submits a comment letter highlighting projects they are seeking funding for. Communities containing projects they seek funding for include Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanare and Tombstone Territory. Projects include:

- An electric rideshare program for the communities of Lanare, Cantua Creek and El Porvenir
- Complete street projects to restore streets, build bike lanes, and complete sidewalks in the communities of Lanare, Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, and Tombstone Territory

The letter also mentions community priorities for residents of Britten Avenue in the City of Fresno that need funding. These projects include repaving roadways, installing protected bike lanes and complete sidewalks within the community.

While we appreciate these projects and their importance to the community, they don't meet the definition of an Unmet Transit Need per resolution 90-15, on page 5 of this report.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK RECEIVED FOR THE FY 2024-2025 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PROCESS

Table 1 includes the public comments received via the online survey at www.publicinput.com/unmettransitneeds/. As of this writing, no additional comments were received by mail, or electronically. The Public Hearing took place on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Emmanuel Agraz-Torres, Policy Advocate for Leadership Counsel, reiterated key points made from their comment letter titled, 'Fresno County Unmet Transit Needs Assessment 2024', received that same day. The comments received have been added in the matrix below the comment letter itself included within Exhibit E-1, and the transit agency's response in Exhibit E-2.

Figure 1 includes the public comments received, the operator response, whether the comment is an unmet need, and whether it is reasonable to meet. In the Unmet Need column, "N/A" signifies "Not Applicable." In the Reasonable to Meet column, "N/A" signifies either "Not Applicable" in cases where sufficient information or analysis is not yet available to make a determination.

To date, 38 comments have been received. Of the comments received, 5 items were found to be unmet needs, with none of them found to be reasonable to meet. Those items meeting the definition of an unmet need are items 6, 11, 12, 13, and 37 in the table below. Of the unmet transit needs, one comment is shared jointly between Clovis and FAX, while the remaining 3 comments apply to FAX. Of what remains, there are 26 items not meeting the definition of an unmet transit need and 7 items that are not applicable.

Unmet needs are identified with a 'Y' in the fifth column, titled "Unmet Need? (Yes, No, N/A)". Comments received in previous cycles of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment are identified with a "Y" in the seventh, and last column, titled "Previously Recorded Comment (Yes, No)".

The number of comments each transit agency, FCOG, and combination of transit agencies received are as follows:

Jurisdiction	Item Number in the Matrix in Table 1
All	1, 2, 3
Fresno and Fresno Co.	4
Clovis	5
Clovis (mostly) and FAX	6
FAX	7-25
FAX (mostly) and Clovis	26
FCOG	27, 28, 29
FCRTA	30-37
Unknown	38

The comments received, transit agency responses, and determination are in Figure 1, below.

Note: Public Comments shown below are included verbatim as.

Figure 1, Matrix of Comments Received, Operator Responses, and Determinations

	RESPONS- IBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
1	ALL	we need express services in the morning and express services in the afternoon. weekend services to help us do grocery shopping by public transit if needed	The lack of specificity (e.g., which routes, cities, agencies) in this comment makes it impossible to determine precisely what unmet need the commenter is asking the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) to address. Therefore, we conclude that the comment does not raise an unmet transit need. Even if we consider the comment to be specific enough to amount to an unmet transit need, the comment is not sufficiently clear to conduct a feasibility analysis. As transit agencies, our goal is to deploy our resources as efficiently as possible, to best meet the transit needs of as many members of the communities we serve as we can. Your comment has been noted.	No	N/A	N/A
2	ALL	service and timely pick ups and drop offs are needed	The lack of specificity (e.g., which routes, cities, agencies) in this comment makes it impossible to determine precisely what unmet need the commenter is asking the FCOG to address. Therefore, we conclude that the comment does not raise an unmet transit need. Even if we consider the comment to be specific enough to amount to an unmet transit need, the comment is not	No	N/A	No

	RESPONS- IBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIU- SLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
			sufficiently clear to conduct a feasibility analysis. As transit agencies, our goal is to deploy our resources as efficiently as possible, to best meet the transit needs of as many members of the communities we serve as we can. Your comment has been noted.			
3	ALL	For an area with the population size of Fresno County, these are some of the worst transit systems. We can't use a credit card to purchase fares, transferring from one line to another requires a lot of work trying to figure out if they connect, they're not reliable (even first thing in the morning). I love working off of the 34 route because it's every 20 minutes, and even if I miss one bus, I know that another will be arriving shortly.	Thank you for your comment. This is not an unmet transit need. FAX has an open RFP for a qualified vendor or vendors to deploy a mobile fare payment and transit trip planner app that would support using a credit card to purchase fares.	No	No	No
4	City of Fresno, County of Fresno	Community priorities from Leadership Counsel that they urge FCOG to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete streets project in Lanare to restore the following streets: South Chateau Fresno, South Garfield, South Grantland, and Mt. Whitney Avenue. • Complete streets project in Cantua Creek and El Porvenir to restore the following streets: Cantua Creek, Domengine, Latta, Hidalgo, Terrado, Chappo, and Santa Clara Avenue. • Complete streets project in Tombstone 	See the attached response letter in Exhibit E-2 of this report.	N/A	N/A	Yes

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		<p>Territory to restore the following streets: South Greenwood, South Cottle, South Tinoco, and South Fairbanks Avenue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe routes to school leading from the communities of Cantua Creek and El Porvenir to Cantua Creek Elementary. • Repave East Central Avenue between Cherry and Chestnut Avenues. • Complete sidewalks and bike lanes leading to Addams Elementary. This includes sidewalks along Marks Avenue from Olive to Clinton Avenues, especially on the East side of Marks. • Complete streets project on East Central Avenue between Cherry Avenue and Chestnut Avenue so they were safer for pedestrians and bicycle riders. • Leveling and paving Britten Avenue along Cherry Avenue. • Bike lanes and complete sidewalks in Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanare, Tombstone. 				
5	CLOVIS	<p>Had Clovis or Fresno public transportation had a bus route that ran Eastbound on Herndon between Willow and Clovis Avenue it would have made it possible for me to get to work on time without having to be up and out of the door walking to and waiting for the bus before 6am when it was still dark out. Anytime I would attempt this, the sun was not out so it</p>	<p>Service East of Willow on Herndon is within the jurisdiction of Clovis Transit. Clovis Transit is in the final stage of a route redesign project. The new routes are planned to be in service early in 2025. One route does provide service on Herndon between Willow and Clovis Avenue. The new routes are posted on our website, www.clovistransit.com</p>	No	No	No

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		would be dark still and there were sketchy individuals roaming the streets that I would have to pass in order to get to the bus stop. Needless to say, I never felt safe walking to the bus stop around my home during that early hour. Not only that, but the bus is not always on time, sometimes the bus would get to a stop too early and not even wait at the bus stop until the actual time the bus guide states the bus would depart. That would cause me to be out waiting at the bus stop even longer until the next bus came by.				
6	CLOVIS AND FAX	We need bus stops along Willow between Alluvial and Behymer, currently there are none. There should be at least a bus stop heading north and south on Willow at Shepherd. The NWC and NEC of the intersection currently has bus bay. This area is growing with residences and businesses. The Habit Hamburger is being built right now.	Route 3 is the newest route in the FAX system. At the current time, the infrastructure along Willow Avenue lacks sidewalks for the safe path of travel. In August 2023, FAX began running buses on Route 3 every 30 minutes and established a new stop at Willow and Behymer. Clovis Transit is currently redesigning routes which will launch in early 2025 and will include service on Willow to Clovis Community College.	Yes	No	Yes
7	FAX	I'm happy to share information with our local tribal community via email. Please add my contact information to your distribution list. I've received a hard copy letter with information I'd like to share. Please send me the information via email for ease of use.	Thank you for sharing your information.	No	N/A	No

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		<p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jane</p> <p>[Forest Service Shield] Jane Allen, M.A. Tribal Relations Program Manager Forest Service Sierra National Forest c: 559-552-3731 f: 559-294-4809 jane.allen@usda.gov 1600 Tollhouse Rd. Clovis, CA 93611-0532 www.fs.usda.gov [USDA Logo] [Forest Service Twitter] [USDA Facebook] Caring for the land and serving people</p>				
8	FAX	<p>Outreach for younger people that has disabilities to be added to getting help with Lyft or Uber transporting with a Discount in Fresno County. This is very much needed!!Thank you</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment. While this is not an Unmet Transit Needs comment it should be noted that all transit operators offer paratransit service for eligible persons with disabilities who can't functionally use the fixed-route transit system. Please call (559) 621-7433 with questions or to inquire about eligibility.</p>	No	N/A	No
9	FAX	<p>There are few places that I cannot get to on the FAX system. It would be helpful if the buses could adhere to the schedules though.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We appreciate your feedback. In terms of coverage, we are constantly expanding our routes to reach more places, as our budget allows. We place great importance on adhering to schedules and strive to maintain a high level of on-time performance (OTP). This is a key performance indicator that we continuously measure and work towards improving.</p>	No	N/A	Yes
10	FAX	<p>YARTS buses to Yosemite! Should be a collaboration between</p>	<p>Not an Unmet Needs comment. Information about the YARTS service</p>	No	N/A	No

	RESPONS- IBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIU- SLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		City, County, FCOG, Chukchansi Casino, and FCRTA.	to Yosemite is available on YARTS.com.			
11	FAX	The cross streets where my mom lives, McKinley and Blythe, there isn't bus i can take to get to her house. I live in the 93706 zip code close to Fink White park. But, regardless from where I took the bus from, there just is not a bus that would get me even a 15 min or a 30min, or even a 1hr walking distance. If I walked from my house to my moms house, it would take me over 2 hours to get there. I got this survey in my email and I'm glad i chose to click on it. Usually I would overlook this type of email since it doesn't look like anything important nor did it stand out. But, I hope the FAX bus system would expand its routes to allow access by public transportation to areas that arent currently included in the FAX bus routes so that people, like myself, would be able to get to areas that are out of reach by FAX at this time.	Currently, the development in the McKinley and Blythe area has not created the densities needed for additional transit service. The closest access you have to that area is by taking Route 28 with a transfer to Routes 35 or 39, which will take you to Clinton and Brawley.	Yes	No	No
12	FAX	South Elm Street up to 9919 , Fresno, CA. Familys need to go out that far to visit Family members in Care. Marks and McKinley need a Bus to go all the way down on both sides. It us hard for people with no cars to buy Groceries & other necessities.	Elm Avenue is serviced by Route 34 from Jensen Avenue to Downtown Fresno and north on First Street to north Fresno. Due to the dispersed and predominantly low-density development west of Highway 99, establishing efficient fixed-route transit services presents challenges.	Yes	No	No
13	FAX	Tarpey Village (around Clovis and Ashlan	There is currently no direct service to the Airport from	Yes	No	No

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		Avenues) has no direct bus service to the airport. The FAX busses stop at Shields and Clovis Avenues, which is too far to walk to the airport. There are a lot of people with jobs near the airport, including me. There are hotels, fast food, and other jobs next to the airport. There needs to be public transportation available from Clovis and Ashlan avenues to the airport.	Clovis/Ashlan. However, it can be accessed by taking Route 45, which has a bus stop at Clovis/Ashlan. From there, passengers can transfer to Route 38 at Ashlan/Cedar, and then make another transfer to Route 39 at Clinton/Cedar or Route 41 at Shields/Cedar to reach the airport.			
14	FAX	While I can access most locations, sometimes it takes 2 hours to travel or make connections, to travel a distance of 5 miles!	Thank you for this comment. While this is not an Unmet Transit Needs comment, FAX's goal is to deploy our resources as efficiently as possible, to best meet the transportation needs of as many members of the community as we can reach. Your comment has been noted.	No	N/A	Yes
15	FAX	While I can access several locations, it may take more than 2 hours to make the connections. To some out of town locations, perhaps 2 to 4 hours, just one way.	Thank you for this comment. While this is not an Unmet Transit Needs comment, FAX can only provide transit service within the City of Fresno. It is challenging to coordinate schedules between multiple transit agencies for inter-community transit service. Your comment has been noted.	No	N/A	Yes
16	FAX	Bus stops need to be more visible, lighting, security measures	Thank you for your comment. This comment does not meet the definition of unmet transit needs. Over the last couple of years, FAX has completed various projects to improve the safety, accessibility, and security of bus stops. In 2020 and 2021, FAX installed solar lighting at 280 bus stops.	No	N/A	Yes

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
			In 2022 and 2023, FAX made extensive renovations to improve accessibility at 63 high-traffic bus stops in Fresno. FAX is in the process of developing formal design standards for bus stops and amenities across the system. Our goal is to design the optimal bus stop and amenities that meet the needs of transit riders while being financially feasible, enabling us to maximize the benefits for transit riders as a result of our investments.			
17	FAX	Safety concerns for passengers both on the bus and at the bus stops.	Thank you for your comment. Your comment does not meet the definition of an unmet transit need. FAX will be conducting a transit passenger satisfaction survey, with an emphasis on passenger safety concerns. This process will enable us to better understand the safety-related issues and concerns our transit riders have. The results of this survey will provide us with priorities to better address the safety of transit riders.	No	N/A	No
18	FAX	Fresno necesita invertir mas fondos equitativos para las comunidades vulnerables y ser mas justos / Fresno needs to invest more equitable funds for vulnerable communities and be more fair.	Thank you for your comment. Your comment does not meet the need of an unmet transit need. As a transit agency receiving federal funding, FAX updates its Title VI Program every three years. The program is designed to prevent discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. Activities making up the program are designed to promote an inclusive and equitable transportation system that meets the needs of all community members,	No	N/A	No

	RESPONS- IBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIU- SLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
			regardless of their background. These protections are also applied to communities housing a disproportionately large number of low-income, disabled, elderly, and minority populations.			
19	FAX	Given the lack of population density in some areas of town, it might make more sense to create Class IV (protected) bike lanes so more people feel safe using electric bikes (i.e., For mass transit to work economically, you need population density. Given Fresno's sprawl, mass transit may not be a viable option in some areas. In those areas, perhaps a more efficient use of tax dollars would be to expand protected bike lanes for those who can use bikes/e-bikes to meet their transit needs and Handy Ride/FCRTA for those who can't...)	Not an unmet transit need. However, Fresno's Department of Public Works is working to implement our Complete Streets Policy, as funding allows.	No	N/A	No
20	FAX	I've used the bus system where there isnt access to seating at the stop. Many older folks would definitely benefit from somewhere to sit waiting for the bus. If we could incorporate seating. Im sure it would definitely be used, and appreciated.	Thank you for your comment. Bus stop amenities are not an unmet transit need. We are aware of this need and are looking at ways to address it as best as possible with the funding available.	No	No	Yes
21	FAX	biggest problem is buses keeping their schedule by even showing up. I've waited 1 1/2 hours for bus 38. add to that I'm in a wheelchair of course both seats were taken seats were taken when one finally showed up. I didn't make my dr appointment. But as of al late all bus lines I've	Thank you for your comment. This is not an unmet transit need. However, we will forward your comment to the appropriate transit agency. If you are medically approved to use a wheelchair, you may qualify to use FAX's paratransit service, Handy Ride. Please call (559)	N/A	No	Yes

	RESPONS- IBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIU- SLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		used service has declined significantly. I'm glad I don't have to count on this to get me to work on time. Lack of reliability makes it good for sight seeing,	621-7433 for more information.			
22	FAX	MAKE THE DRIVERS WAIT FOR CROSSING BUSES AT OBVIOUS TRANSFER POINTS. THIS IS BY FAR THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WITH TRYING TO TAKE FAX BUSES. THIS IS A MATTER OF A FEW SECONDS SOMETIMES. IT MAKES ME SICK TO WATCH THESE DRIVERS TAKE OFF WHILE SOMEONE IS RUNNING FROM ONE BUS TO ANOTHER. I SEE IT ALL THE TIME.	Thank you for your comment. This is not an unmet transit need. Drivers must adhere to a schedule that are defined by 'time points'. Stopping a bus once it is in motion from a stop is a public safety issue.	No	No	Yes
23	FAX	I have mobility issues and it is very difficult for me to walk far. The bus stops are far away from each other and I am limited because of my mobility issues. I have had to take Uber to get to my destinations which is a financial	Thank you for your comment. This is not an unmet transit need. To address your comment, the adopted distance between bus stops within the FAX network is a 1/4 of a mile. The only exception is Route 1, BRT with spacing between stops every 1/2 mile to provide shorter travel times. As a FAX user with mobility issues, you may qualify to use Handy Ride, FAX's paratransit service. Please call 559-7433 for information or to inquire about eligibility.	No	No	Yes
24	FAX	Yes I do why isn't there covered shade in front of Glen Agnes's bus stops over on fruit Avenue	Thank you for your comment. There is a FAX Shelter at the corner of Fruit and Floradora, on the SE corner of the Glen Agnes property.	No	No	No
25	FAX	None of this involves active travelers such as pedestrians or bicyclists.	Thank you for your comment. This is not an unmet transit need.	N/A	N/A	No

	RESPONS- IBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIU- SLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		<p>I'd love to be able to get my ebike on a bus, but can't do that. I'd love it if the sidewalk/multi use path on Herndon between Cedar and Maple didn't feel like a mountain bike trail (seriously, just painting warning stripes doesn't fix the issues).</p> <p>I'd love it if businesses were required to put in bike parking in a way that is actually usable (too often they're put just a foot from a building, meaning you either have to take the entire rack or just lock your front tire.</p> <p>Tree and bush trimming along Palm just south of Herndon to keep the "bike lane" clear would be great. Since those lanes are basically just gutters (which have had a lot of water this year), keeping them as clear as possible makes it safer to ride AND to drive -- since no one will have to dart into the car lane when the bike lane is unsafe.</p> <p>Fining people who regularly park in the bike lane would be great (Gettysburg, especially around First constantly has cars or trailers taking up at least part of the bike lane).</p> <p>I very much appreciate the work on some of the bike lanes either put in or improved over the past year.</p>	<p>However, it will be forwarded to the appropriate department. Regarding bus lanes, Fresno's Department of Public Works is working to implement our Complete Streets Policy, as funding allows.</p>			
26	FAX and	I drive past several bus	Thank you for your	No	No	No

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
	Clovis	<p>stops regularly, and it's disheartening to see so many without basic amenities like benches or overhead coverings. It's especially concerning when we live in a city with inclement heat and rain and we have elderly, disabled individuals, or children waiting without any place to sit or shelter from the elements. Having comfortable seating and covered areas should be standard at every bus stop to ensure the comfort and safety of those using public transportation. Additionally, incorporating amenities like WiFi services and outlets would greatly enhance the experience for commuters.</p> <p>We need to advocate more vigorously for better facilities and services for public transportation users. It's also crucial to provide clear information and accessibility options for students attending both FUSD and CUSD schools. Currently, the lack of clarity can be confusing for new riders and may deter them from utilizing public transportation.</p> <p>Also, there's a pressing need for improved communication and solutions for junior high and high school bus riders. For instance, I live 2.5 miles away from my daughter's school, which is too far for her</p>	<p>comment. Your comments do not meet the definition of an unmet transit need. However, we will forward them to the appropriate transit agency(ies). FAX works closely with most area school districts to ensure that students have all the resources they need to use public transportation. Fresno Unified School District and other districts offer subsidized FAX passes to their students, free of charge. For those students who don't have access to subsidized bus passes, FAX offers discounted pricing with a valid school ID. FAX is in the process of developing formal design standards for bus stops and amenities across the system. Our goal is to design the optimal bus stop and amenities that meet the needs of transit riders while being financially feasible, enabling us to maximize the benefits for transit riders as a result of our investments.</p>			

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		<p>to walk, yet she doesn't qualify for the school bus service because it falls just outside the 2-mile criteria. This arbitrary rule doesn't make sense and leaves many families in challenging situations. We need a fairer and more logical approach to ensure all students have access to safe and reliable transportation to school.</p> <p>[CONTINUED IN THE CELL BELOW.]</p>				
	<p>FAX and Clovis, continued</p>	<p>[CONTINUED FROM THE CELL ABOVE]</p> <p>I understand the concern may be the homeless population utilizing the amenities. However, if a bus stop becomes the best option for someone to find shelter at night, that's a sad reflection of our society's broader issues with homelessness. While it's true that providing amenities like benches and covered areas may attract individuals seeking shelter, it's essential to recognize that this problem shouldn't be the reason we withhold basic comforts from those utilizing public transportation. Moreover, having such amenities can also make a spot more noticeable for police officers, which could potentially address safety concerns and provide opportunities for outreach and support to those in need. Ultimately, our focus should be on improving</p>	<p>[CONTINUED FROM THE CELL ABOVE]</p>	<p>[CONT'D FR. CELL ABOVE]</p>	<p>[CONT'D FR. CELL ABOVE]</p>	<p>[CONT'D FR. CELL ABOVE]</p>

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		public transportation for everyone, while also addressing the root causes of homelessness in our communities.				
27	FCOG	Help to fund YARTS service on a yearly basis!	YARTS bus service to Yosemite is currently operational. For more information about YARTS bus service, please visit YARTS.com.	No	No	No
28	FCOG	Consider coordinating transit services with nearby Counties. For example, the bus to and from Visalia could stop at Kingsburg. Currently, it would probably take all day to travel from Kingsburg to Visalia, 25 miles apart, using public transportation (stage coaches did better than that). Coordinating the two agencies would be similar to that between the City of Fresno's FAX and Clovis Transit.	V-Line offers service between Visalia and Fresno State six times a day, seven days a week, per the Vline website.	No	No	No
29	FCOG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe routes to school leading from the communities of Cantua Creek and El Porvenir to Cantua Creek Elementary. 	Efforts are continuously being made on behalf of FCOG to fund viable projects as proposed and evaluated by the ATP committee which is comprised of a diverse representation of the communities.	N/A	N/A	Yes
30	FCRTA	Question...I am interested in having adequate transportation from the Traver area (Tulare Co.) to Reedley College or perhaps Fresno City College if or when needed. Is there such transport available if needed? George Nord gnord3@gmail.com 5593076240. Text or call	Tulare County transit services are operated by the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA). The Dinuba Connection route provides service from Tulare County to Reedley College, their phone number for more information is (559) 372-2290. The V-line provides service from Visalia to Fresno, and a connection can be made to FAX to Fresno City College.	N/A	N/A	No

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			V-line phone number for more information is 1-877-404-6473. There is also the College of the Sequoias located in Visalia which might be closer and a more direct transit service might be available.			
31	FCRTA	HURON- I would like children to be able to ride without their parent. Many families want to use it for safety, but a couple of years ago it changed and kids could not ride alone. This is a critical service for the Huron community.	The policy for children to ride without an adult has not changed, to reserve a ride on the Huron transit the phone number is 1-855-612-5184.	No	N/A	No
32	FCRTA	Coalinga, Huron, Parlier, Reedley, Kingsburg. There may be individual companies, but the timing is not consistent. For a good idea of how to serve a region, take a look at the transit system in the Denver, Colorado area.	FCRTA provides public transit service to the rural areas in Fresno County which includes fixed route and demand response services. The demand response service is provided on a reservation basis by calling 1-855-612-5184.	No	No	No
33	FCRTA	Why do I need a reason to where I'm headed? What if I just want to participate in anything that's happening in those areas? If it's to Reedley, I'm usually headed to the quilting center. Or maybe I want to go to Simonian's at Jensen and Clovis for fresh produce. Then, if transit was really smart during the summer, they would have buses to pick up people from Fashion Fair or Sierra Vista and head to Wild Waters. Charge \$10 for a round trip, and parents would be happy to have someone else do the driving.	FCRTA provides public transit service to the rural areas in Fresno County which includes fixed route and demand response services. The Reedley transit demand response service is provided on a reservation basis by calling 1-855-612-5184. The Orange Cove inter-city service is a fixed route which stops in Reedley and provides service into Fresno.	No	N/A	No

	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
34	FCRTA	Es de gran necesidad tener un transporte en nuestra área ya que no contamos con ninguno / It is very necessary to have transportation in our area since we do not have any.	FCRTA provides public transit service to the rural areas in Fresno County which includes fixed route and demand response services. The demand response service is provided on a reservation basis by calling 1-855-612-5184.	No	No	No
35	FCRTA	Nos gustaría que trajeran transportación a cantua creek / We would like you to bring transportation to Cantua Creek	FCRTA currently provides a demand response service in Cantua Creek The demand response service is provided on a reservation basis by calling 1-855-612-5184.	No	No	Yes
36	FCRTA	For Cantua Creek, residents would like sidewalks and a fence through the Safe Routes to School program. El Porvenir would like a crosswalk for the community and transit service two days a week. Both the communities of Lenare and Tombstone would like signage and bike lanes.	The items you bring up are infrastructure projects that do not qualify as "public transportation or specialized transportation services," per resolution 90-15. They can only be undertaken by the local governments having jurisdiction to perform those public infrastructure improvements. These projects have been noted and forwarded to the appropriate agencies. Regarding bus service to El Porvenir, transit service is already provided by FCRTA 5 days a week to El Porvenir residents with advance reservations via an 800-number.	N/A	N/A	Yes
37	FCRTA	Electric rideshare program - Residents in Lanare, Cantua Creek, and El Porvenir continue to express the necessity to create a rideshare program that will allow residents to move within the County and attend vital medical appointments, social services, and grocery stores.	As more fully discussed in the response letter attached as Exhibit E-2 to this report, FCOG, along with partner FCRTA, is in the process of determining whether this need is reasonable to meet. FCRTA has implemented a micro transit / rideshare pilot project in the community of Biola, which will be replicated elsewhere if it proves to be sustainable.	Yes	No	No

	RESPONS- IBLE PARTY	COMMENT RECEIVED	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIU- SLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
38	UNKNOWN	Pick ups more often. Every 15 min on all lines. Intersecting lines with better meet up timing	The lack of specificity (<i>e.g.</i> , which routes, cities, agencies) in this comment makes it impossible to determine precisely what unmet need the commenter is asking the FCOG to address. Therefore, we conclude that the comment does not raise an unmet transit need. Even if we consider the comment to be specific enough to amount to an unmet transit need, the comment is not sufficiently clear to conduct a feasibility analysis. As transit agencies, our goal is to deploy our resources as efficiently as possible, to best meet the transit needs of as many members of the communities we serve as we can. Your comment has been noted..	N/A	N/A	No

DISCUSSION FROM SSTAC RELATING TO THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE FY 2024-2025 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 1 is the list of comments received during the FY2024-2025 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment. Also included with each public comment is a comment number, the relevant jurisdiction(s), the operator response, whether the comment is an unmet need, whether the need is reasonable to meet, and whether the comment has been recorded in a previous UTN cycle. The definition of unmet needs and reasonable to meet are contained in Fresno COG Resolution 90-15 on pages 5 and 6 above.

Section 99401.5(c) of the California Public Utilities Codes specifies, “The transportation planning agency shall determine its definitions of the terms ‘unmet transit needs’ and ‘reasonable to meet’ for the purposes of this section which shall be documented by resolution or within the minutes of the agency.” The Fresno COG Policy Board does this with Resolution 90-15.

A brief summary of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment presentation at SSTAC, comments, questions, and feedback, and subsequent voting by committee members will be provided below. A summary will be included in presentations to TTC/PAC and Policy Boards as well.

INSTRUCTIONS AND NEXT STEPS FOR TTC/PAC PERTAINING TO THE FY 2024-2025 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The publicly noticed hearing to receive comments regarding potential unmet transit needs in Fresno County will be held Thursday, April 25, 2024, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting. The hearing was held in the Sequoia Room at the office of Fresno COG, located at 2035 Tulare, Ste. 201, Fresno, CA 93721. The comments received have been added to Figure 1, Matrix of Public Comments Received, Operator Responses, and Determinations.

At its April 23, 2024, meeting, SSTAC, using Fresno COG Resolution 90-15 was asked to make a recommendation regarding whether any of the public comments in Figure 1 constitute:

- An Unmet Transit Need;
- An Unmet Transit Need that is reasonable to meet; or
- An Unmet Transit Need that is unreasonable to meet.

More specifically, the SSTAC was asked to make a finding that there are 3 unmet needs, none of which are reasonable to meet within the County of Fresno.

Harold Sobrado presented the UTN Assessment to SSTAC, addressing the public outreach process that consisted of six in-person public meetings, one virtual meeting, a public hearing, a public survey and social media outreach, committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments about the process and the Assessment itself. The Committee was then asked to make a motion to approve the draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for FY 2024-25, forwarding it to the Fresno COG Technical Transportation Committee / Policy Advisory Committee (TTC/PAC). The motion was made by Yonas Paulos and seconded by Moses Stites.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY JURISDICTION

A. Overview

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for public transportation services contains a Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) component, a Fresno County rural component, and a social service transportation component.

The Metropolitan Area component is implemented through the "Short Range Transit Plan" (SRTP) for the Fresno County Metropolitan Area (FCMA). The 2024-2026 FCMA SRTP was adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on June 29, 2023. It provides a detailed service plan for implementation over five years. The Rural Area component is implemented through the Rural SRTP for the Fresno County Rural Area, which provides a detailed service plan for the implementation of rural transit services over the same five-year period. Short Range Transit Plans are updated every other year and reviewed within the same timeframe as the Unmet Transit Needs.

In addition to these Short-Range Transit Plans, the Fresno COG annually adopts an Operations Program and Budget for the coordination and consolidation of transportation for specialized social service programs within Fresno County. The 2024-2025 Operations Program and Budget for the City of Clovis and the Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) are expected to be adopted on June 27, 2024.

B. Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA)

The Regional Transportation Plan calls for fixed-route service within the Metropolitan Area to be provided by FAX, with financial participation from the City of Clovis and Fresno County for service to non-Fresno City residents within FAX's service area. Demand responsive Handy Ride service is provided through FAX under contract with National Express Transit (NEXT). The Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) for the FCMA sets forth the specific service implementation plan for the five-year fiscal period from 2024-2028 and was adopted on June 29, 2023. It is this SRTP that implements the near-term service goals and objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan.

The Regional Transportation Plan and the FCMA Short Range Transit Plan also continue to emphasize specialized service for disabled and elderly residents, who are unable to utilize the fixed-route buses.

Service will be funded with \$46.0 million in the State of California Transportation Development Act - Local Transportation Funds. FAX is also anticipating \$15.4 million in Measure C funds and \$20.8 million funded by the Federal Transit Administration, including funds for maintenance of FAX vehicles. The remaining funds are derived from farebox revenues and special services provided under contracts with outside agencies such as the City of Clovis. Although the City of Fresno does not propose to expend any of its Local Transportation Funds on streets and roads in FY 2024-2025, a "transit needs finding" is necessary to be consistent with SB-498. SB-498 states the lack of available resources shall *not* be the sole reason for finding a transit need is *not* reasonable to meet.

The City of Clovis operates two types of public transit services. Clovis Stageline provides public fixed-route service within the City Limits, and Clovis Round-Up, a specialized demand responsive

service for disabled residents. The City of Clovis designates Round-up services as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for the Clovis Transit Service Area.

For the fiscal year, 2022-2023, the estimated cost for the operation of Clovis Transit is \$4,000,000. Notably, although the City of Clovis does not plan to allocate any Local Transportation Funds on streets and roads during this period, it's imperative to conduct a "transit needs finding" in alignment with SB-498. SB-498 mandates the lack of available resources shall *not* be the sole reason for disregarding the identification of transit needs deemed necessary for meeting community requirements.

Rural Areas

The Regional Transportation Plan calls for service to rural portions of Fresno County, including intra-city service in and around thirteen rural incorporated cities, thirty-nine unincorporated communities, and inter-city service linking those cities to the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area on the following corridors:

- (1) Firebaugh - Mendota - San Joaquin - Kerman Corridor to Fresno
- (2) Kingsburg - Selma - Fowler Corridor to Fresno
- (3) Orange Cove - Reedley - Parlier - Sanger Corridor to Fresno
- (4) Coalinga - Huron – Five Star - Five Points - Lanare - Riverdale - Caruthers - Raisin City - Easton Corridor to the Fresno

During the latter part of FY 1978-1979 and the beginning of FY 1979-1980, in cooperation with rural incorporated cities in Fresno County, Fresno COG prepared and adopted specific short-range transit development programs to define the implementation of rural public transportation service in conformance with the Regional Transportation Plan. In September 1979, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) was formed and assigned responsibility for implementing the service requirements of the Regional Transportation Plan as set forth by the Transit Development Programs. Services set forth by the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transit Development Programs were fully implemented by mid-February 1980.

A comprehensive Short-Range Transit Plan (Rural SRTP) for the Rural Fresno County Area, which updated the individual Transit Development Programs, was first adopted on November 17, 1983. The five-year Rural SRTP is updated biennially. The latest update of the "Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area 2024-2028" and was adopted on June 29, 2023. The estimated cost for the operation of the FCRTA in FY 2023-2024 is \$9,606,020. The Services will be funded with \$5,123,593 of State Transportation Development Act - (TDA) Local Transportation Funds (LTF). The FCRTA will utilize \$1,032,000 from its Measure – C funds to support the operations. An additional \$2,298,896 will be funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5311. Farebox receipts are projected to be \$1,580,169 and Interest is estimated at \$234,111.

D. Social Service Transportation

The updated Social Service Transportation Action Plan and Inventory were adopted on January 29, 1998, and co-designated the City of Fresno and the Fresno Economic Opportunities

Commission (FEOC) as the Fresno Urban Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA). The Action Plan further designates the City of Clovis, as the Clovis CTSA, and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) and the FEOC as the Fresno Rural Area CTSA.

In FY 2020-2021, FCRTA, FAX, and Fresno COG sought sole designation of the Fresno Urban and Rural CTSA. With sole designation of both CTSA's, both FAX and FCRTA can be more inclusive of additional social services transportation services providers through an RFP process. Additionally, sole designation allows FAX and FCRTA direct oversight of the Fresno Urban and Rural CTSA's. Under this new-sole designation status, FEOC continues to be a significant participant in both the Urban and Rural CTSA's.

Since FY 1982-1983, Fresno COG has set aside each year five percent (5%) of Local Transportation Funds (Table 1) for social service transportation. An Operations Program and Budget (OPB) have been prepared for the Fresno Urban CTSA, Clovis CTSA, and the Fresno Rural CTSA. The FY 2024-2025 OPBs are scheduled for adoption on June 27, 2024, which documents commitments for matching funds from participating social service agencies and defines the types of coordinated/consolidated services to be provided so funds may be released.

Since 1983, the Fresno and Urban CTSA's consisted of the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC), the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), and the City of Fresno. In FY2020-2021, FCRTA and FAX recommended that each agency be solely designated without FEOC for each of their respective CTSA's. Fresno COG approved self-designation for the Fresno Urban and Rural CTSA's on November 19, 2020.

Analysis of Proposed Public Transportation Services and Recommended Findings for -Local Agencies FY 2024-2025

A. City of Clovis

The City of Clovis contributes funds to the operation of three (3) transit services within its jurisdiction. First, it operates the Clovis CTSA Round-up service on a demand-responsive basis to its elderly and disabled social service clients. Second, it operates Clovis Stageline to serve general public patrons with four (4) coordinated fixed-routes; and third, it provides funding to Fresno Area Express (FAX), which operates fixed-route service on Route 9 into Clovis.

Inter-city service to Fresno is available on Clovis CTSA's Round-up and Fresno Area Express / Handy Ride.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that there is an unmet transit shared with the City of Fresno that is not reasonable to meet. It is recommended that the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Clovis will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained within the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

B. City of Coalinga

The City of Coalinga, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides intra-city and

inter-city service using vehicles owned by the FCRTA. All FCRTA vehicles are lift-equipped for elderly and disabled accessibility.

The Coalinga Transit intra-city demand responsive service operates with one (1) vehicle during an approximate eight (8) hour service period Monday through Friday.

Coalinga Transit also provides inter-city fixed-route service, with route deviation to pick-up disabled passengers, between Coalinga and Fresno. The vehicle provides one (1) round trip through Pleasant Valley Prison, Huron, Five Points, Lanare, Riverdale, Caruthers, Raisin City, and Easton, during an approximate nine and $\frac{3}{4}$ (9.75) hour period, Monday through Saturday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Coalinga, Sphere of Influence, and surrounding Area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

C. City of Firebaugh

The City of Firebaugh, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive service within Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area is available by an FCRTA's lift-equipped vehicle, Monday through Friday for approximately nine and $\frac{3}{4}$ (9.75) hours per day. A second vehicle is available for inter-city trips between Firebaugh and Mendota during an approximate nine (9) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding communities, Kerman, and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Firebaugh, its Sphere of Influence, and surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

D. City of Fowler

The City of Fowler, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides transportation services within its Sphere of Influence and surrounding area. A lift-equipped FCRTA vehicle is in the service of the community approximately eight (8) hours per day, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Southeast Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, for approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Fowler, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

E. City of Fresno

Fresno Area Express (FAX) provides fixed-route service seven (7) days-a-week throughout the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. The City of Clovis and Fresno County financially participate for service to non-Fresno City residents within FAX's service area. FAX contracts with National Express Transit (NEXT) for weekday and weekend demand-responsive service on Handy Ride. This paratransit service is oriented toward those who are unable to use the fixed-route service.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that there are unmet transit needs, one of them shared with the City of Clovis that are not reasonable to meet, and that public transportation needs within the City of Fresno will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained within the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

F. City of Huron

The City of Huron, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides general public transportation service within the Sphere of Influence, and surrounding area utilizing two (2) FCRTA wheelchair accessible modified vehicles. The intra-city services are available during an approximate eight (8) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The City of Huron continues to provide funding for an inter-city "life-line" service to Coalinga. Three (3) round trips are provided during an eight (8) hour period, Monday through Friday.

Coalinga Transit also provides inter-city fixed-route service, with route deviation to pick-up disabled passengers, between Coalinga and Fresno. The vehicle provides one (1) round trip through Pleasant Valley Prison, Huron, Five Points, Lanare, Riverdale, Caruthers, Raisin City, and Easton, during an approximate nine and $\frac{3}{4}$ (9.75) hour period, Monday through Saturday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Huron, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

G. City of Kerman

The City of Kerman, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive public transportation service with an FCRTA vehicle within its Sphere of Influence and surrounding area using a lift-equipped FCRTA vehicle, for approximately eight (8) hours a day, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, for approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using lift-equipped vehicles, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding unincorporated communities, and Kerman and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Kerman, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

H. City of Kingsburg

Two (2) FCRTA wheelchair lift-equipped vehicles are available for providing public transportation services to Kingsburg Area residents. These transit services are provided to the City of Kingsburg under an inter-agency services agreement with FCRTA. Service within the Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area, are available on a demand- responsive basis during an approximately eight (8) hour service period, Monday through Friday, and eight (8) hours on Saturday utilizing one (1) vehicle.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Southeast Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler and "to" and "from" Fresno.

An additional vehicle was added in 2016 to provide service to the Kingsburg-Reedley College fixed-route service operating from 7:00am-4:35pm Monday through Friday to serve patrons between Kingsburg, Selma, Fowler, Parlier and Reedley.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Kingsburg, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

I. City of Mendota

The City of Mendota, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive service within its Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area using a FCRTA lift-equipped vehicle. This service is provided Monday through Friday for approximately eight (8) hours per day.

Firebaugh Transit has a second vehicle, which is available for inter-city trips between Firebaugh and Mendota during an approximate nine (9) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled

passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding unincorporated communities, and Kerman and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Mendota, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

J. City of Orange Cove

The City of Orange Cove, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides transportation services within its Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area using an FCRTA lift-equipped vehicle. Orange Cove Transit operates on a demand responsive basis area for approximately nine (9) hours per day, Monday through Friday.

Orange Cove Transit also provides a lift-equipped vehicle for inter-city fixed-route service. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, Sanger, and "to" and "from" Fresno. Multiple round trips are available each service day. The inter-city service is provided, during an approximately ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Orange Cove, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

K. City of Parlier

The City of Parlier, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, currently operates a lift-equipped demand responsive service within its Sphere of Influence, and surrounding area using a wheelchair lift-equipped FCRTA vehicle. Service is currently provided, during an approximate eight (8) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Orange Cove Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, and Sanger and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Parlier, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

L. City of Reedley

The City of Reedley, through an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive public transportation within its Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area, using four (4) vehicles on an eight (8) hour staggered basis during an approximate eight (8) hour service period, Monday through Friday, and one (1) vehicle on Saturdays during an approximate eight (8) hour period.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Orange Cove Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, and Sanger and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Reedley, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

M. City of Sanger

To provide public transportation service within the Sanger Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area, the FCRTA, under an inter-agency services agreement, with the City of Sanger operates two (2) wheelchair accessible FCRTA vehicles that offer service in Sanger. The vehicles provide staggered service during an approximate eight (8) hour period Monday through Friday, and one (1) vehicle during an eight (8) hour period on Saturday.

FCRTA also contracts to operate Orange Cove Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximate ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped bus, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, and Sanger and "to" and "from" Fresno.

An additional vehicle began providing service between Sanger and Reedley College in September of 2014 to support a new training program to address a critical concern by manufacturers in Sanger who have been unsuccessful at finding skilled workers to employ and residents in Sanger who are underemployed or unemployed. One (1) vehicle provides route service during an eight (8) hour period, Monday through Friday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Sanger, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

N. City of San Joaquin

The City of San Joaquin, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides for demand-responsive Intra-City service within their Sphere of Influence and surrounding area. Inter-community service is also provided between the unincorporated communities of Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Halfway, Three Rocks, and Tranquility. Inter-City service to Kerman is also available.

As a result of low ridership and the COVID-19 pandemic this service transitioned to a demand response rural transit operation in June 2020, Monday through Friday using FCRTA lift equipped vans.

The FCRTA contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximate eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding unincorporated communities, and Kerman and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of San Joaquin, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area with its identified unincorporated communities will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

O. City of Selma

The City of Selma, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides for demand-responsive and fixed-route Intra-City service within their Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area.

This service utilizes three (3) FCRTA wheelchair accessible vehicles. It operates three (3) vehicles on a demand-responsive basis for eight (8) hours each on a staggered basis, and one (1) for four (4) hours for lunchtime driver relief, Monday through Friday, during an approximate eight (8) hours service day. Saturday demand-responsive services are provided with a single (1) vehicle during an approximate eight (8) hour service period.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Southeast Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximate eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler and "to" and "from" the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA).

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Selma, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding Area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

P. Fresno County

Fresno County financially participates through the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency for provision of service to unincorporated area residents within the Spheres of Influence and the surrounding areas of the thirteen (13) rural cities and two dozen unincorporated communities situated on established fixed routes.

Fresno County also provides the funding for six (6) other unincorporated area transit services.

Auberry Transit is provided through an inter-agency service agreement with FCRTA. The service area includes the communities of Alder Springs, Auberry, New Auberry, the Big Sandy Indian Rancheria, Burrough Valley, Cold Springs Indian Rancheria, Jose Basin, Marshall Station, Meadow Lakes, Mile High, Prather, Sycamore, and Tollhouse. A lift- equipped vehicle provides approximately seven (7) hours of service per day, Monday through Friday. A second Auberry Transit vehicle is to provide “lifeline” inter-city service from the foothill communities and through Friant and the Table Mountain Indian Rancheria to the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area, one (1) day a week during an eight (8) hour service period.

Del Rey Transit operates as a general public demand-responsive service. The FCRTA continues to fund the service four (4) hours per service day and Fresno County TDA monies fund the remaining four (4) hours. The service is under contract for driver services through the FCRTA and continues to be available during an approximate eight (8) hour period Monday through Friday. The operation will continue to maintain priority service to seniors attending the mid-day Hot Meal Nutrition Program. The service transports passengers within the community on a shared ride basis; arranges passenger grouping for trips to Sanger; and transfers passengers in Sanger to access Orange Cove Transit for service to Fresno, Parlier, Reedley, and Orange Cove. As of April 1, 2019 the, service was modified to 7 hours per weekday and 5 hours on Saturday on a 3-month demonstration period to accommodate requests for Saturday service from Del Rey residents.

Laton Transit continues to be provided by the FCRTA through an ongoing inter-agency services agreement with Kings Area Rural Transit (KART). Round trip, inter-community service between the unincorporated Community of Laton and the City of Hanford, in Kings County, is available Monday through Friday. An existing inter-County service by KART from Hanford through Laton and then Selma (Kaiser Clinic) and Hospitals in Fresno and the Central Valley Children’s Hospital in Madera County is provided Monday through Friday.

Rural Transit between remote areas of Fresno County has been mentioned in the Regional Transportation Plan and Rural Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) for many years. The Measure-C Expenditure Plan referenced the concept for funding and implementation. Service beyond the current transit service areas associated with incorporated cities has been difficult to justify. Four (4) vehicles were purchased to facilitate the operation of three (3) in regular services, Monday through Friday, with the fourth (4th) reserved as a back-up vehicle. The adopted Rural SRTP reflects the demand-responsive operation to be available on a twenty-four (24) hour prior reservation basis. Transfers to existing operations have eliminated service duplications. This service provides life line transit services to the unincorporated communities in Fresno County.

FCRTA deployed the Rural Transit Expansion in October 2022 with a Microtransit Pilot Project in the unincorporated community of Biola. This service is a demand response service providing transportation from the community of Biola to the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan areas. This service is a continuation of a demand response service within the Biola community that was previously operated by the CTSA contractor, Inspiration Transportation. This service ceased in September 2022. This service is operated by MV Transportation, started in operations in December 2022. This service is operated with one (1) electric sedan vehicle. FCRTA installed a level 2 charging unit at the Biola Community Services district allowing the vehicle to charge when the vehicle is not being operated. FCRTA subcontractor, MV Transportation hired a local resident as a trained and dedicated driver for the service. The Biola Micro-transit is a demo program and may be expanded to other unincorporated areas using the same model, if successful.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the unincorporated portions of the County of Fresno will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

Additional Information

It should be noted additional transit needs are being met through three (3) other programs, which have been implemented with Measure – C funds. The Fresno COG administers the programs:

- Carpooling - A subsidized carpooling program is available for individuals willing to share rides with others. A computerized program may assist individuals in making successful contacts to form successful arrangements to share rides conveniently.
- Commuter Vanpooling – A subsidized vanpooling program is available for a group of individuals who may have common interests in commuting for employment or schooling at City Colleges and Universities. Several commercial entities have complete programs to provide vans ranging from seven (7) to fifteen (15) passenger capacities. A lead and back-up driver volunteer to make arrangements to transport the group as needed. The vehicle, fuel, maintenance, and insurance are covered. Participants share in a portion of the costs. Several hundred vehicles are currently in operation, and more are being formed on a regular basis.
- Farm Labor Vanpooling – A subsidized farm labor vanpooling program facilitates group transportation to field and packing facilities. The program is flexible to meet the seasonal needs of the workers, originating in Fresno County. Fifteen (15) passenger vans accommodate seven (7) to fifteen (15) individuals. A lead and back-up driver volunteer to make arrangements to transport the group as needed. The vehicle, fuel, maintenance, and insurance are covered. Participants share in a portion of the costs. Several hundred vehicles are currently in operation, and more are being formed on a regular basis.

The re-authorization for Measure C was taken before voters on November, 2022, and defeated. As a result, the future of the programs funded by Measure C, and the initiative itself, are unknown at the time of this writing.

Individuals and groups desiring to know more about these programs should call 559-441-RIDE (7433) or contact www.valleyrides.com for more information.

Appendix A - Demographic Information

Transit Dependent Groups

Per the Transportation Development Act, Unmet Transit Needs findings must include an annual assessment of the size and location of identifiable groups likely to be transit-dependent, including but not limited to, the elderly, the disabled, including individuals eligible for paratransit and other special transportation services pursuant to Section 12143 of Title 42 of the United States Code, and persons of limited means, including, but not limited to, recipients under the CalWORKs program.

For the purposes of this document:

- The elderly is considered to be individuals age 65 years old and older.
- The term "disability" refers to persons who, because of physical or mental impairment, are unable to drive automobiles or use public transit, which is not specifically tailored to meet their needs.
- Persons of limited means are considered as having incomes below the poverty threshold as defined by the federal government.

Demographic Data - Charts and Highlights

The determination of the size and location of identifiable groups likely to be “transit-dependent” is based on the American Community Survey, 2020 Census, and other pertinent data. The demographic data relevant to determining unmet transit needs in Fresno County is presented in the form of tables and maps.

The American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the decennial census long form in 2010. The ACS now collects detailed questions about socioeconomic and housing characteristics on an annual basis. The function of the decennial census will be to provide counts of people for the purpose of congressional apportionment and legislative redistricting. The primary purpose of the ACS is to measure the changing social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population. The use of the ACS data will provide “snapshots” of our region’s socioeconomic characteristics. The decision to select one-year, three-year, or five-year ACS “snapshots” is dependent on whether the intent is to reflect the most current data (e.g., one-year ACS) or a statistically more accurate “snapshot” (e.g., lower margin of error) over a larger period of time.

In this section, Table 2 presents an overview of the population in Fresno County. Figure 2 illustrates graphically how the population is dispersed throughout the incorporated and unincorporated areas in Fresno County.

Figure 2
Fresno County Population Density

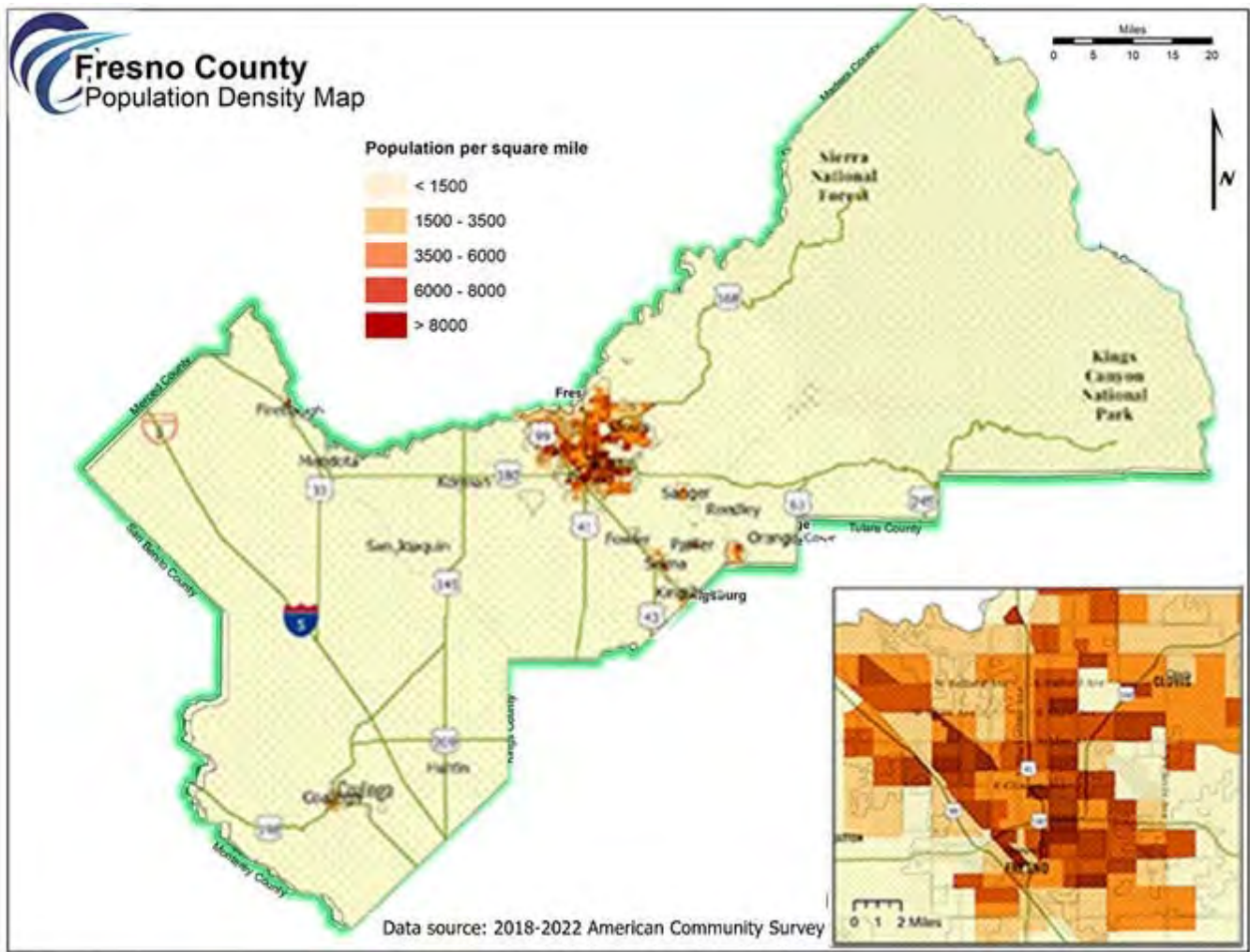


Table 2 shows the 2022, 1-year population estimate. The most rapid population increase between 2020 and 2023 occurred in the Cities of Fowler, with growth of 6.99%, followed closely by Kerman with growth of 5.86%. Other Fresno County cities with population growth between 2020 and 2023 were Firebaugh (4.93%), Kingsburg (3.92%), Clovis (3.66%), Reedley (0.61%), and Fresno (0.24%). All other incorporated cities, including Coalinga, Huron, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, San Joaquin, Sanger, and Selma experienced a population decline during the period, as did Fresno County, as a whole.

The Cities of Fresno and Clovis both have a population of more than 100,000 people. Pursuant to Senate Bill 716 (enacted 2009), cities with a population of 100,000 or more within a county that has a population of 500,000 or more will be required to expend 100% of the Local Transportation Funds (LTF) apportionment for public transit purposes. The Cities of Fresno and Clovis have already been complying with this requirement.

Population forecasts suggest that none of the other incorporated cities in Fresno County will exceed 100,000 in the next 20 years and therefore, will be exempt from the provisions of Senate Bill 716. The California Department of Finance annual city and county population estimates will be used to identify when the population threshold has been met. SB 716 represents a fundamental change in the way public

transit will be financed in the future.

Table 2
Total Population Percent Change, Year 2023

Jurisdiction	Population			% Change	
	2010	2020	2023 Jan	2010 - 2020	2020 - 2023
City of Clovis	95,631	120,124	124,523	25.61%	3.66%
City of Coalinga	13,380	17,590	17,237	31.46%	-2.01%
City of Firebaugh	7,549	8,096	8,495	7.25%	4.93%
City of Fowler	5,570	6,700	7,168	20.29%	6.99%
City of Fresno	494,665	542,107	543,428	9.59%	0.24%
City of Huron	6,754	6,206	6,124	-8.11%	-1.32%
City of Kerman	13,544	16,016	16,955	18.25%	5.86%
City of Kingsburg	11,382	12,380	12,865	8.77%	3.92%
City of Mendota	11,014	12,595	12,463	14.35%	-1.05%
City of Orange Cove	9,078	9,649	9,463	6.29%	-1.93%
City of Parlier	14,494	14,576	14,402	0.57%	-1.19%
City of Reedley	24,194	25,227	25,381	4.27%	0.61%
City of San Joaquin	4,001	3,701	3,608	-7.50%	-2.51%
City of Sanger	24,270	26,617	26,241	9.67%	-1.41%
City of Selma	23,219	24,674	24,300	6.27%	-1.52%
Balance of Fresno County	171,705	162,396	158,846	-5.42%	-2.19%
Total	930,450	1,008,654	1,011,499	8.40%	0.28%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, Decennial Census(2020, 2010); State of California, Department of Finance, E-1(2023)

Table 3 presents the 2018-2023 American Community Survey (ACS 5-year) data on population by age and income characteristics. This data is important to this analysis because studies have shown that age and income have a high correlation with automobile usage and transit dependency. Persons aged 65 and over are separated as a subset of the total population figures. In some jurisdictions, these individuals become eligible for transit services solely based on their age. In others, they qualify for reduced fares because of their age. In either case, they are recognized as a select group of people who may have special transportation needs met through public transportation.

Poverty statistics in ACS products adhere to the standards specified by the Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy Directive 14. The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. Further, poverty thresholds for people living alone or with nonrelatives (unrelated individuals) vary by age (under 65 years or 65 years and older). The poverty thresholds for two-person families also vary by the age of the householder. If a family's total income is less than the dollar value of the appropriate threshold, then that family and every individual in it are in poverty. Similarly, if an unrelated individual's total income is less than the appropriate threshold, then that individual is in poverty.

Table 3
Age and Income, Year 2018-2022

Jurisdiction	Population for whom poverty status is determined	Persons age 65 years+		Persons in poverty		Persons age 65 years+ & in poverty	
		Population	Percent	Population	Percent	Population	Percent
City of Clovis	119,318	15,570	13.0%	10,049	8.4%	1,164	1.0%
City of Coalinga	14,185	1,816	12.8%	2,654	18.7%	347	2.4%
City of Firebaugh	8,139	1,024	12.6%	3,521	43.3%	297	3.6%
City of Fowler	6,765	898	13.3%	1,421	21.0%	116	1.7%
City of Fresno	532,251	62,970	11.8%	117,570	22.1%	9,574	1.8%
City of Huron	6,260	179	2.9%	2,007	32.1%	37	0.6%
City of Kerman	15,564	1,219	7.8%	3,408	21.9%	199	1.3%
City of Kingsburg	12,399	2,083	16.8%	1,185	9.6%	243	2.0%
City of Mendota	12,536	825	6.6%	4,101	32.7%	245	2.0%
City of Orange Cove	9,601	584	6.1%	4,463	46.5%	280	2.9%
City of Parlier	14,568	1,202	8.3%	3,988	27.4%	407	2.8%
City of Reedley	24,810	2,495	10.1%	3,977	16.0%	377	1.5%
City of San Joaquin	3,725	203	5.4%	1,238	33.2%	11	0.3%
City of Sanger	26,461	2,782	10.5%	4,198	15.9%	401	1.5%
City of Selma	24,318	2,740	11.3%	5,157	21.2%	541	2.2%
Balance of Fresno County	159,921	26,433	16.5%	24,738	15.5%	3,068	1.9%
Total	990,821	123,023	12.4%	193,675	19.5%	17,307	1.7%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, S1701

Table 4 provides data on individuals with disabilities by gender and age. This information is from the 2018-2022 ACS data and includes non-institutionalized persons aged five and older who have a "disability." Individuals were asked if they, or others in the household, had a health condition that has lasted for six or more months, making it difficult to go outside of the home alone. Persons that have such difficulty because of a health condition are said to have a mobility limitation. Increased public transportation would be an asset to those who have mobility limitations.

Table 4
Disability Status by Age by Sex, Year 2018-2022

Age	Male		Female		Total	
	Persons with a disability	Percent with a disability	Persons with a disability	Percent with a disability	Persons with a disability	Percent with a disability
Under 5 years	686	1.8%	148	0.4%	834	1.1%
5 to 17 years	6,684	6.2%	4,796	4.7%	11,480	5.5%
18 to 64 years	33,020	11.1%	33,296	11.3%	66,316	11.2%
65 years and over	22,501	40.5%	27,161	40.3%	49,662	40.4%
Total	62,891	12.6%	65,401	13.1%	128,292	12.9%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, B18101

Table 4 shows that 62,891 males, or 12.6% of the male population within Fresno County meet the definition of a person having a disability. In contrast, 65,401 females, or 13.1% of the female population within Fresno County meet this definition.

Table 5
Employment Status by Disability Status, 2022

Disability Status	Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years					
	In the labor force				Not in labor force	
	Employed		Unemployed			
	Population	Percent	Population	Percent	Population	Percent
With a disability	23,949	36.1%	4,263	6.4%	38,104	57.5%
No disability	376,382	71.7%	33,218	6.3%	115,261	22.0%
Total	400,331	67.7%	37,481	6.3%	153,365	25.9%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C18120

Table 5 expands on the number of individuals in Fresno County age 18, and over by their disability and employment status. Looking at the Civilian noninstitutionalized population between the ages of 18 and 64, which numbers 591,177, the data shows that there are 400,331 persons, or 67.7% of which, that are employed. Of this number, 23,949 or 36.1% have a disability, whereas 376,382, or 71.7% of those employed do not have a disability.

Of the Civilian noninstitutionalized population between the age of 18 and 64 within the labor force, 37,481, or 6.3% are unemployed. Of this number, 4,263, or 6.4% are disabled, whereas 33,218, or 6.3% are able-bodied.

Of the Civilian noninstitutionalized population between the age of 18 and 64 within the labor force, 153,365, or 25.9% are not in the labor force. Of this number, 38,104, or 57.5% are disabled, and 115,261, or 22.0% are able bodied.

Fresno COG's definition of transit-dependent focuses on individuals who, by virtue of their age, income, or disability, are not adequately served by the automobile. Information from the last available version of a summary from Caltrans entitled "Travel and Related Factors in California" was used as a foundation for identifying the incidence of individuals that are transportation dependent.

Table 6 below shows the Population of driving Age in Fresno County for 2022 as 757,385 persons. Driving age is defined as people between '16-18', and '18+'.

Table 6
Population of Driving Age in Fresno County, Year 2022

Age	Population	Percent
0-15	250,895	24.9%
16-18	32,081	3.2%
18+	725,304	71.9%
Total	1,008,280	100.0%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, DP05

Between 2018 and 2021, the number of valid driver licenses in Fresno County increased from 596,540 in 2018 to 619,182 in 2021. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of driver’s licenses outstanding increased to 627,707, an increase of 8,525 driver licenses outstanding, from the previous year.

Table 7
Percent of Licensed Drivers of Driving Age, Population

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Valid driver licenses	596,540	605,627	600,899	619,182	627,707
Percent of licensed drivers of driving-age population	80.4%	81.1%	78.9%	81.3%	81.7%

*Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2020 Census
California Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver Licenses Outstanding by County*

Table 8 below shows the number of vehicles and licensed drivers per household. It shows that there are 345,476 total housing units, 326,981 occupied housing units and 637,426 household vehicles available. The numbers show an average household size is 3.04 individuals with 1.95 average vehicles available per household and 1.92 average drivers per household.

Table 8
Occupied Household / Vehicles in Fresno County, Year 2018-2022

Label	Estimates
Total housing units	345,476
Occupied housing units	326,981
Average household size	3.04
Household Vehicles available *	637,426
Average vehicles available per household	1.95
Average drivers per household	1.92

*Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates,S1101, B25001,B25044
California Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver Licenses Outstanding by County*

* ACS doesn't have vehicles statistics. This value is estimated with assumption that vehicles available for households in ACS with "5 or more vehicles available" is 5.

Appendix B – Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Process

For the FY 2024-25 meeting cycle, public outreach took place virtually and face-to-face. Specifically, there were six in-person public events, and a single virtual public event. The six in-person public events were split evenly between urban and rural locations, within Fresno County, excluding the Public Hearing. Rural Fresno County in-person public meeting locations include Kerman, and Reedley. Urban Fresno County in-person public meeting locations include three sites in the City of Fresno, and one in the City of Clovis. One of the events in the City of Fresno took place on a Saturday morning.

Tasks carried forward from the FY 2023-24 UTN cycle include the online survey and virtual meetings.

New activities for the FY 2024-25 UTN cycle include sending a flyer to assisted care facilities in the Cities of Fresno and Clovis. Additionally, staff printed 16 larger posters of the flyers in English and Spanish for placement at the 16 Fresno County Department of Social Services satellite offices, serving clients throughout Fresno County.

The public outreach process for the FY 2024-25 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment was run through publicinput.com, a community engagement platform to manage the public outreach process for State and local governments. The platform was used to run the public survey at the heart of the public outreach process for the UTN. It was also integrated with FCOG social media accounts to track comments received through FCOG social media channels.

The Survey

As with the previous cycle, the survey was designed to collect transit-related information from transit riders and stakeholders that pertain to the Unmet Transit Needs assessment. The survey was released on February 2, 2024, and closed March 29, 2024. As of May 1, 2024, ninety-two participants left 245 responses and 198 comments, many of which could be consolidated as they were submitted by the same participant, illegible, or spam. When reviewed by participating transit agencies, only 35 of these comments provided any information that could be used within the UTN. The results of the remaining surveys were not included since they did not contain any informational value.

While screenshots of the surveys are shown below, the survey questions are as follow:

Question #1 – Do you use public transportation or social services transportation?

Yes

No

Question #2. – Are there any Fresno County locations/destinations you would like to access by transit or social service transportation that are currently not being served?

Yes

No

If yes, please list locations/destinations.

Question #3. – If you answered “yes” to question #2, please answer the questions below.

a. What is your zip code?

b. Where are you going (what is your destination address or nearest cross street)?

- c. Where are you coming from (what is your originating address, nearest cross streets)?
- d. What days do you need service? (For example, weekdays, weekends, or both)
- e. Which transit system does your feedback refer to?
 - Fresno Area Express
 - Handy Ride, City of Fresno’s paratransit service
 - Clovis Stageline
 - Clovis Round-Up, City of Clovis’ paratransit service
 - Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA)
 - A social service agency provider

Question #4. – Do you have any additional comments or feedback?

In-Person Public Meetings

Six in-person public meetings were held within Fresno County: three in the City of Fresno, one in the City of Clovis, and two in smaller cities in Fresno County, specifically Kerman and Reedley. One of the two events within the City of Fresno, took place on a Saturday morning, at 10:30 AM to accommodate people whose schedule would not allow them to attend any of the other in-person public events.

Virtual Events

A single virtual event took place on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 1:30 PM.

Comment Cards

Comment cards were made available in English and Spanish, distributed to the Unmet Transit Needs mailing list, and available online for download.

Email

People could also submit feedback via email through the Public Input platform at unmet.transit.needs@publicinput.com.

Voicemail

Comments were received via voicemail by calling (855) 925-2801, entering code 1470 when prompted, and then leaving their comments.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the FY 2024–2025 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment took place before the April Fresno COG Policy Board meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the Sequoia Room at the offices of Fresno COG, located at:

2035 E. Tulare Ave, Ste. 201,
Fresno, CA 93721

Exhibit A

**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
Membership List
Updated April 2024**

Potential Transit User 60 Years of Age or Older (minimum of 1)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background

Representatives of the Local Social Service Providers for Seniors (minimum of 2)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background

Potential Transit User Who Is Disabled (minimum of 1)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background

Representative of the Local Social Service Provider for Disabled (minimum of 2)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Chenier Derrick	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2024	African American

Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means (minimum of 1)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Katherine Martindale, Fresno County	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2026	Caucasian

Representatives from the Local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (minimum of 2)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Amy Hance, Clovis Transit	Clovis/Fresno County	6-2024	Caucasian
Thomas Dulin, FEOC/CTSA	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2025	Caucasian
Moses Stites, FCRTA	Fresno/Fresno County	2-2025	Hispanic
Darlene Christiansen, FAX	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2025	Asian American

Representatives of General Public, who use Public Transit			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Yonas Paulos	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2024	Caucasian
Matthew Gilliam	Fresno/Fresno County	3-2026	African American

Exhibit A-1

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Agency Name
ACS	American Community Survey
ADA	American Disabilities Act
CCNF	Central California Nikkei Foundation
COFCG	Council of Fresno County Governments (old name of Fresno COG)
COG	Council of Governments
CTSA	Consolidated Transportation Service Agency
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
FAX	Fresno Area Express
FCHSS	Fresno County Health and Social Services
FCMA	Fresno County Metropolitan Area
FCRTA	Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
FEOC	Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
KART	Kings Area Rural Transit
LTF	Local Transportation Fund
OPB	Operations Program and Budget
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RTPA	Regional Transportation Planning Agency
SB	Senate Bill
SRTP	Short Range Transit Plan
SSTAC	Social Services Transit Advisory Committee
TDA	Transit Development Act
UMTA	Urban Mass Transit Agency
UTN	Unmet Transit Needs
VCH	Valley Children's Hospital

Exhibit B

2024-25 Unmet Transit Needs Process Outreach Schedule – Fresno COG

Item	Date	Cost	Reach
FresnoCOG.org webpages: Public Transit Planning, Get Involved and calendar listings and Publicinput.com			Public input – 3,351 impressions.
Constant Contact Emails			
CC Email send #1	3/4/2024	\$0	4,117 sends, 1,770 or 43% open rate.
CC Email resend to “non-openers”	3/7/2024	\$0	2,347 sends.
CC updated email send #1	3/26/2024	\$0	4,301 emails, 1,637 opens, or a 38% open rate.
CC updated email to last year’s interested parties.	3/26/2024	\$0	64 previous year’s UTN effort subscribers, 12 opens.
Fresno COG’s Coming Up at Fresno COG	<pending>	\$0	
Other			
Hard copy flyers mailed to database	2/2/23	\$TBD	378 2-sided bilingual color copies, envelopes
Flyers posted at 16 Fresno County Department of Social Services facilities.			
Meeting agendas (publicly published): SSTAC TTC PAC Policy Board	Forthcoming		Forthcoming
Public Hearing Notices	4/2/2024	\$921.54	English/Spanish, Fresno Bee, Sunday edition
PublicInput.com surveys		\$0	2,722 views 79 participants 244 Responses 198 comments 35 Subscribers
Totals	1/17 –	\$921.54	

Exhibit B-1

Unmet Transit Needs Request Flyer in English



Do you or someone you know have a public transit need that is not being met?
The Fresno Council of Government (FCOG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) would like to hear from you!

There are several ways to participate and comment:

Online survey: [English Link](#)

Using the QR code to the right, access the survey using your smart phone.



Attend Meetings:

Attend one of nine public events: six in-person, one virtual, and a public hearing where you can interact with transit providers and staff directly.

Rural Westside Fresno County Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 5:30 pm Granada Commons Apartments 14570 West California Ave., Kerman, CA 93630	City of Fresno Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 5:30 pm Mosqueda Community Center 4670 E. Butler Ave., Fresno, CA 93702	City of Fresno, Saturday Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 10:30 pm Maxie L. Parks Community Center 1802 E. California Ave., Fresno CA 93706	Online Monday, March 4, 2024, at 1:30 pm You can register in advance at: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VaKoerNDQZu4-HSR132LaQ After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.
City of Fresno Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 5:30 pm Pinedale Community Center 7170 N. San Pablo Ave., Pinedale, CA 93650	City of Clovis Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 5:30 pm Armstrong Transit Center and Landmark Square Transit Training Room 785 Third Street, Clovis, CA 93612	Rural Eastside Fresno County Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm Paseo 55 1764 12 th Street, Reedley, CA 93654	Public Hearing Fresno COG Policy Board Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm. 2035 Tulare Street, Ste. 201 Fresno, CA 936

Email staff:

In English at: 2024utn@publicinput.com

Leave a voicemail message: Call (855) 925-2801, enter project code when prompted: 1470

To learn more about the 2024-25 Unmet Transit Needs process and view meeting details, [click here](#) or scan the QR code above. Call for (559) 233-4148 for more information.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the unmet transit needs meetings?

The meetings provide an opportunity for the public to identify all Fresno County “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” within Fresno County (PUC 99401.5 (d)).

What is an “unmet transit need”?

An “unmet transit need” is an inadequacy in existing public transit service from one location to another for persons recognized as transit dependent in Fresno County.

Who is “transit dependent”?

The “transit dependent” are those individuals who rely on public transit because they do not operate a vehicle because of youth, advanced age, mental or physical impairment or low income.

What is the purpose of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)?

The purpose of SSTAC is to receive public comment regarding transit service needs for the transit-dependent in Fresno County.



Exhibit B-2

Unmet Transit Needs Flyer and Comments Form in Spanish



¿Usted o alguien que conoce tiene una necesidad de transporte público que no se está satisfaciendo?

¡El Comité Asesor de Transporte de Servicios Sociales (SSTAC) del Consejo de Gobierno de Fresno (FCOG) desea saber de usted!

Hay varias formas de participar y comentar:

Encuesta en línea: [Enlace en Español](#)

Usando el código QR a la derecha, acceda a la encuesta usando su teléfono inteligente.



Asistir a las reuniones:

Asista a uno de los nueve eventos públicos: seis presenciales, uno virtual y una audiencia pública donde podrá interactuar con proveedores de tránsito y personal directamente.

<p>Zona rural del oeste del condado de Fresno Martes 27 de febrero de 2024, a las 17:30 horas Granada Apartamentos 14570 Avenida Oeste de California, Kermán, CA 93630</p>	<p>ciudad de fresno Miércoles 28 de febrero de 2024, a las 17:30 horas Centro Comunitario Mosqueda 4670 E. Butler Ave., Fresno, CA 93702</p>	<p>Ciudad de Fresno, sábado Sábado 2 de marzo de 2024 a las 22:30 horas Centro comunitario Maxie L. Parks 1802 E. California Ave., Fresno California 93706</p>	<p>En línea Lunes 4 de marzo de 2024 a las 13:30 horas Puedes registrarte previamente en: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EkE-RiT7QlOdJRyomUOfEg Después de registrarse, recibirá un correo electrónico de confirmación.</p>
<p>ciudad de fresno Martes 5 de marzo de 2024, a las 17:30 horas. Centro Comunitario Pinedale 7170 N. Avenida San Pablo, Pinedale, CA 93650</p>	<p>ciudad de clovis Miércoles 6 de marzo de 2024 a las 17:30 horas Centro de tránsito Armstrong y sala de capacitación de tránsito de Landmark Square 785 Tercera Calle, Clovis, CA 93612</p>	<p>Zona rural del este del condado de Fresno Martes 12 de marzo de 2024 a las 17:30 horas Paseo 55 Apartamentos 1764 Calle 12, Reedley, CA 93654</p>	<p>Audiencia pública Junta Normativa de la COG de Fresno Jueves 25 de abril de 2024 a las 17:30 horas. 2035 Tulare Street, Ste. 201 Fresno, CA 93721</p>

Correo electrónico al personal: 2024utn@publicinput.com

Deje un mensaje de correo de voz: Llame al **(855) 925-2801**, ingrese el código del proyecto cuando se le solicite edición: **1470**

Para obtener más información sobre el proceso de Necesidades de Transporte Insatisfechas 2024 -25 y ver los detalles de la reunión, haga [clíc aquí](#) o escanee el código QR de arriba. Llame al (559) 233-4148 para más información.



Preguntas frecuentes

¿Cuál es el propósito de las reuniones de necesidades de tránsito insatisfechas?

Las reuniones brindan una oportunidad para que el público identifique todas las “necesidades de transporte no satisfechas” del Condado de Fresno que son “razonables de satisfacer” dentro del Condado de Fresno (PUC 99401.5 (d)).

¿Qué es una “necesidad de tránsito insatisfecha”?

Una “necesidad de transporte insatisfecha” es una insuficiencia en el servicio de transporte público existente de un lugar a otro para personas reconocidas como dependientes del transporte en el condado de Fresno.

¿Quién es “dependiente del tránsito”?

Los “dependientes del transporte público” son aquellas personas que dependen del transporte público porque no operan un vehículo debido a su juventud, edad avanzada, discapacidad mental o física o bajos ingresos.

¿Cuál es el propósito del Consejo Asesor de Transporte de Servicios Sociales (SSTAC)?

El propósito de SSTAC es recibir comentarios del público sobre las necesidades de servicios de transporte para quienes dependen del transporte en el condado de Fresno.

Exhibit B-3

Unmet Transit Needs Survey in English

Fresno COG > Unmet Transit Needs Survey - 2024



Unmet Transit Needs Survey - 2024

Welcome!

Public input and feedback are a critical part of the UTN process. In partnership with local transit providers, Fresno COG is collecting public comments on Unmet Transit Needs for Fresno County. All comments are due by March 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. and will be considered part of the 2024 UTN assessment.

The UTN assessment is held each year to identify unmet transit needs that are "reasonable to meet" that are not already being met through existing public transit services with available funding.

- Welcome
- Submit ideas
- About You
- Thank you!

Please help us by completing the survey on the next screen to identify Unmet Transit Needs in Fresno County.

Continue

- Welcome
- Submit ideas**
- About You
- Thank you!

1. Do you use public transit or social service transportation?



Closed to responses | 73 Responses

2. Are there any Fresno County locations/destinations you would like to access by transit or social service transportation that are currently not being served?



Closed to responses | 67 Responses

If yes, please list locations/destinations

Closed for Comments

3. If you answered 'yes' to question #2, please answer the questions below.

a. What is your zip code?

This question is closed to responses.

b. Where are you going (what is your destination address or nearest cross streets)?

c. Where are you coming from (what is your originating address nearest cross streets)?

Closed for Comments

Court house, Fresno State, Amtrack Train station and Airport all from Reedley.

one month ago

↩ Reply ② Agree

Draper and Marrion

12 days ago ↩ Reply ① Agree

Cantua Creek california

one month ago ↩ Reply ① Agree

Clinton in Blackstone

11 days ago ↩ Reply ① Agree

Show all comments

d. What days do you need service? (For example, weekdays, weekends, or both)

Closed for Comments

Weekdays and Weekends

12 days ago ↩ Reply ① Agree

Every day

12 days ago ↩ Reply ① Agree

Entre semana

one month ago ↩ Reply ① Agree

Ricos

11 days ago ↩ Reply ① Agree

Show all comments

e. Which transit system does your feedback refer to?

Fresno Area Express (FAX)	77%	Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA)	44%
Handy Ride, City of Fresno's paratransit service	26%	Clovis Round-Up, City of Clovis' paratransit service	21%
Clovis Stageline	18%	A social service agency provider	10%

4. Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Closed for Comments

I drive past several bus stops regularly, and it's disheartening to see so many without basic amenities like benches or overhead coverings. It's especially concerning when we live in a city with inclement heat and rain and we have elderly, disabled individuals, or children waitin... See More

one month ago

↩ Reply Ⓞ 3 Agree

Bus stops need to be more visible, lighting, security measures

one month ago

↩ Reply Ⓞ 2 Agree

Safety concerns for passengers both on the bus and at the bus stops.

one month ago

↩ Reply Ⓞ 1 Agree

All day everyday to lessen traffic

one month ago ↩ Reply Ⓞ 1 Agree

Welcome

Submit ideas

About You

Thank you!

If you would like us to contact you, please include your name and contact information below. If not, click 'Continue'.

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone

Address

Submit

Exhibit B-4

Unmet Transit Needs Survey in Other Languages

For the online survey, translations were offered in a large number of languages through integration with Google Translate. Survey respondents would select their language of choice through a drop down menu at the very top of the browser screen. Once selected, the web page would load in the language selected.



Spanish Powered by Google Translate



Encuesta de necesidades de tránsito insatisfechas - 2024

¡Bienvenido!

Los comentarios y opiniones del público son una parte fundamental del proceso de la UTN. En asociación con proveedores de transporte locales, Fresno COG está recopilando comentarios públicos sobre las necesidades de transporte no satisfechas del condado de Fresno. Todos los comentarios deben presentarse antes del 29 de marzo de

2024 a las 5:00 p. m. y se considerarán parte de la evaluación de la UTN de 2024.

La evaluación de la UTN se lleva a cabo cada año para identificar las necesidades de transporte insatisfechas que son "razonables de satisfacer" y que aún no se están satisfaciendo a través de los servicios de transporte público existentes con fondos disponibles.

Bienvenido

Enviar ideas

Acerca de ti

¡Gracias!

1. ¿Utiliza transporte público o transporte de servicios sociales?



Cerrado a respuestas | 73 respuestas

2. ¿Hay ubicaciones/destinos del condado de Fresno a los que le gustaría acceder mediante tránsito o transporte de servicio social que actualmente no cuentan con servicio?



Cerrado a respuestas | 67 respuestas

En caso afirmativo, indique las ubicaciones/destinos

Cerrado para comentarios

Fresno, lado oeste. Comunidades desfavorecidas como Mendota, Huron, Biola, Parlier, Reedley, OC

hace un mes

Responder 5 de acuerdo

Parque fluvial directamente al centro de Clovis y viceversa.

hace un mes

Responder 4 de acuerdo

SPCA

hace un mes

Responder 3 de acuerdo

Fresno a Kermán CA 93630

hace un mes

Responder 1 de acuerdo

Mostrar todos los comentarios

3. Si respondió "sí" a la pregunta n.º 2, responda las preguntas a continuación.

a. ¿Cuál es su código postal?

Esta pregunta está cerrada a respuestas.

b. ¿Adónde vas (cuál es la dirección de destino o el cruce de calles más cercano)?

Cerrado para comentarios



Internacional y Sauce. Aeropuerto

hace un mes  Responder  3 de acuerdo

De centro comercial a centro comercial

hace un mes  Responder  2 de acuerdo



Bullard y Minnewawa

Hace 16 días  Responder  1 de acuerdo

¿Por qué necesito una razón hacia dónde me dirijo? ¿Qué pasa si sólo quiero participar en cualquier cosa que esté sucediendo en esas áreas? Si es a Reedley, normalmente me dirijo al centro de acolchado. O tal vez quiera ir a Simonian's en Jensen and Clovis para comprar productos frescos.

Entonces, yo ... Ver más

Hace 16 días



 Responder  1 de acuerdo

Mostrar todos los comentarios

C. ¿De dónde vienes (cuál es tu dirección de origen más cercana al cruce de calles)?

Palacio de justicia, estado de Fresno, estación de tren Amtrack y aeropuerto, todo desde Reedley.

hace un mes

 Responder  2 de acuerdo

Draper y Marrion

Hace 16 días  Responder  1 de acuerdo

cantua creek california

hace un mes  Responder  1 de acuerdo

Clinton en Blackstone

Hace 15 días  Responder  Aceptar

Mostrar todos los comentarios

d. ¿Qué días necesitas servicio? (Por ejemplo, entre semana, fines de semana o ambos)

Cerrado para comentarios

Días laborables y fines de semana

Hace 16 días  Responder  1 de acuerdo

Cada día

Hace 16 días  Responder  1 de acuerdo

entre semana

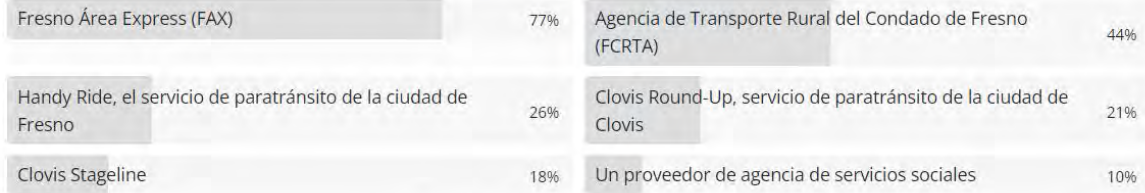
hace un mes [Responder](#) 1 de acuerdo

ricos

Hace 15 días [Responder](#) [Aceptar](#)

Mostrar todos los comentarios

mi. ¿A qué sistema de tránsito se refieren sus comentarios?



Cerrado a respuestas | 39 respuestas

4. ¿Tiene algún otro comentario o comentario?

Exhibit B-5

Unmet Transit Needs Assessment PowerPoint Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Unmet Transit Needs process was prepared as a hand-out and for virtual meetings to explain the UTN process to stakeholders. A presentation was prepared in both English and Spanish. The English-language presentation is included below.

4/8/2024



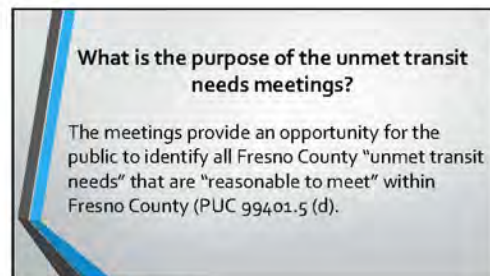
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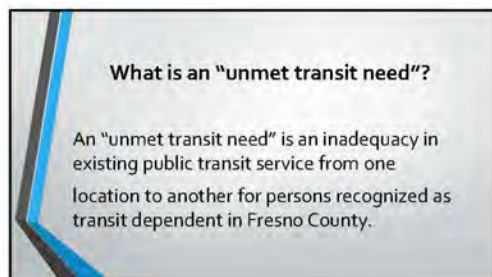
2



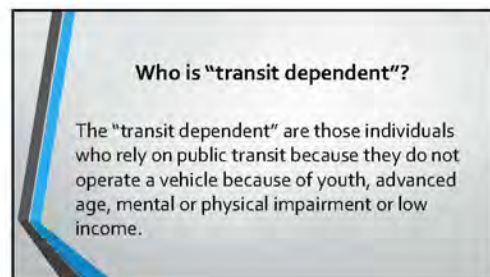
3



4



5



6

What is the purpose of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)?

The purpose of SSTAC is to receive public comment regarding transit service needs for the transit-dependent in Fresno County.

7

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Complete an online survey in English or Spanish:
English – www.publicinput.com/2024/utn
Spanish – www.publicinput.com/2024/spanishutn
2. Attend a public outreach meeting and/or public hearing and speak with transit agency representatives. See <https://www.fresno.gov/transportation/transit-projects/2024/utn> for dates and times.
3. Send an email in English or Spanish:
2024utn@publicinput.com
4. Call and leave a voicemail of your comments at (855) 925-2801, project code: "1470"
5. To receive more information about available transit and the Unmet Transit Needs process, visit us on the web at this link:
<https://publicinput.com/unmet.transit.needs>

8

QUESTIONS?

9

THANK YOU!

For additional information, please contact:
Todd Sobrado
Harold.Sobrado@fresno.gov
559-621-1532

10

Exhibit B-6

Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Mailing List Summary, FY 2024-2025

Fresno COG maintains a list of stakeholders interested in the Unmet Transit Needs process. These stakeholders include private citizens, local tribal governments, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and elected officials.

Notification of the Unmet Transit Needs process is made via US mail in mid-to-late January and consists of the flyers in exhibits B1 and B2 above. Prior to sending the flyers, FRESNO COG staff and members of SSTAC review the list with names, agencies, and contact information, edited, added, and deleted from the list, keeping the list current.

Every other year, Fresno COG staff will contact the names and agencies on this list to keep the list fresh. In the interest of space and protecting the privacy of the individuals involved in the Unmet Transit Needs process, the mailing list is not included here.

The full Unmet Transit Needs mailing list for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is available upon request via email to Harold.sobrado@fresno.gov or by phone to (559) 621-1532.

In the current cycle of the Unmet Transit Needs process, there were 379 names, tribes, organizations, and agencies on the list that received notification. The smallest groups were local tribal governments with all six tribes receiving notification, followed by private citizens. This latter group numbered less than ten.

The remaining stakeholders consisted of elected officials, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Some of the elected officials on this list include:

- The six members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors
- The mayors of the sixteen incorporated cities in Fresno County
- Council members of each of the sixteen incorporated cities in Fresno County
- The US Senator and Federal and State House and Senate Representatives

The non-profit organizations on the list includes social service providers, and legal advocates, including:

- National Action Network
- Central California Legal Services, Inc.
- Clinica Sierra Vista
- California Rural Legal Assistance

There are many government agencies represented on the list. Some of the agencies on the list include:

- Fresno County Department of Social Services
- California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Many departments within Fresno County, The City of Fresno, and other cities within Fresno County.

Exhibit C

Public Outreach Meeting Attendance Lists, In-Person and Virtual

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #1 – RURAL WESTSIDE FRESNO COUNTY, KERMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024, 5:30 PM Granada Commons Apartments 14570 West California Ave., Kerman, CA 93630		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789
Eunice Gomez	Modesto	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #2 – CITY OF FRESNO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024, 5:30 PM Mosqueda Community Center 4670 E. Butler Ave., Fresno CA 93702		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	FCOG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Gregory Barfield	FAX	
Rocky Vang	Fresno County	
Drew Wilson	FAX	(559) 621-1464

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #3 – CITY OF FRESNO SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024, 10:30 AM Maxie L. Parks Community Center 1802 E. California Ave, Fresno CA 93706		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Carolina Ilic	FAX	
Cordet	Private citizen and student	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS VIRTUAL MEETING #1 - ZOOM MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024, 2:00 PM Broadcast over ZOOM		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Jake Martinez	Fresno COG	
Denise Flores	Fresno COG	
Amy Hance	Clovis ransit	
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789
Janelle Del Campo	FCRTA	
Carolina Ilic	FAX	
Thomas Dulin	FEOC	
Lorena Mendibles	Caltrans	
Mariana Alvaranga	Leadeship Counsel	
Esther Ramirez	Fresno	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #4 – CITY OF FRESNO TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, at 5:30 PM Pinedale Community Center, 7170 N. San Pablo Ave., Pinedale, CA 93650		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Bethany Berube	Clovis Transit	
Carolina Ilic	FAX	
Nide Chin	Clovis Transit	
Susanna Herrera	Clovis Transit	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #5 – CITY OF CLOVIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, at 5:30 PM Armstrong Transit Center and Landmark Square Transit Training Center 785 Third Street, Clovis, CA 93612		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789
Bethany Berube	Clovis Transit	(559) 621-1464
Drew Wilson	FAX	
Susanna Herrera	Clovis Transit	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING # – 6 RURAL EASTSIDE FRESNO COUNTY, CITY OF REEDLEY TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024, 5:30 PM Paseo 55 Apartments 1764 12 TH Street, Reedley, CA 93654		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789
Barbara Cuening	Reedley	(559) 273-7021
Elizabeth Koop	Reedley	
Elsie Aguirre	Reedley	
Marcella McIntosh	Reedley	
James Kirkman	Reedley	
Ermelinda Maldonado	Reedley	
Dominique McCamai	Reedley	

Exhibit D-1

**Public Noticing of the FY 2024-2025 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Public Hearing
Fresno Bee in English and Receipt**



The Beaumont Gazette
The Belleville News-Democrat
Birmingham Herald
Centre Daily Times
Sun Herald
Idaho Statesman
Bridgeton Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The State
Ledger-Examiner

Durham | The Herald-Sun
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Fresno Bee
The Island Packet
The Kansas City Star
Lexington Herald-Leader
The Telegraph - Macon
Merced Sun-Star
Miami Herald
El Nuevo Herald

The Modesto Bee
The San News - Myrtle Beach
Raleigh News & Observer
Rock Hill | The Herald
The Sacramento Bee
San Luis Obispo Tribune
Tomball | The News Tribune
Tri City Herald
The Wichita Eagle
The Olympian

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
20875	536971	Print Legal Ad-IPL01667150 - IPL0166715		\$921.54	2	50 L

Attention: Mrs. Brenda Beenendahl
FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
2035 TULARE ST, STE 201
FRESNO, CA 937212004

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fresno Council of Governments (COG) will hold a public hearing for the annual Unmet Transit Needs Process beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia room, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.

The Fresno COG Policy Board will take comments at the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing on public transportation needs within the Fresno County region that are reasonable to meet during the 2024-25 fiscal year. In addition to this public hearing, COG conducted outreach meetings throughout the County. Transit agencies involved in this process include Fresno Area Express, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, Clovis Transit, and the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. For Additional Information, please visit www.fresnocog.org or contact Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express at (559) 621-1532.

Individuals with disability may call Fresno COG (with 3-working-day advance notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate in the public hearing. Translation services are available (with 3-working-day advance notice) to participants speaking any language with available translation services.
/s/ ROBERT PHIPPS, Interim Executive Director Fresno Council of Governments

NOTICIA PÚBLICA

El Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para el Proceso Anual de Necesidades de Tránsito No Cumplidas que comenzará a las 5:30 p.m. el Jueves, 25 de abril del 2024 en el **Salón Sequoia room del Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.**

La Junta de Políticas de Fresno COG tomará comentarios en esta audiencia pública en la región del Condado de Fresno que sean razonables para cumplir durante el año fiscal 2023-24. Además de esta audiencia pública, Fresno COG a llevado a cabo reuniones de alcance en todo el condado. Las agencias de tránsito involucradas en este proceso incluyen Fresno Area Express, la Agencia de Tránsito Rural de Fresno, Tránsito de Clovis, y la Comisión de Oportunidades Económicas de Fresno. Para obtener información adicional, visite www.fresnocog.org o comuníquese con Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express al número (559) 621-1532.

Las personas con discapacidades pueden llamar a Fresno COG (con un preaviso de 3 días laborables) para solicitar las ayudas auxiliares necesarias para participar en la audiencia pública. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles (con un preaviso de 3 días laborables) a los participantes que hablan cualquier idioma con los servicios de traducción profesional y disponible.
/s/ ROBERT PHIPPS, Director Ejecutivo Interino

IPL0166715
Mar 31 2024

**COUNTY OF DALLAS
STATE OF TEXAS**

The undersigned states:

McClatchy Newspapers in and on all dates herein stated was a corporation, and the owner and publisher of The Fresno Bee.

The Fresno Bee is a daily newspaper of general circulation now published, and on all the dates herein stated was published in the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, and has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Fresno, State of California, under the date of November 28, 1994, Action No. 520058-9.

The undersigned is and on all dates herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and is the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of said newspaper; and that the notice, a copy of which is hereto annexed, marked Exhibit A, hereby made a part hereof, was published in The Fresno Bee in each issue thereof (in type not smaller than nonpareil), on the following dates.

1 insertion(s) published on:

03/31/24

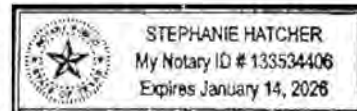
Isabel Capps

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

Dated: 04/02/2024

Stephanie Hatcher

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
Legal document please do not destroy!

Exhibit D-2

**Public Noticing of the FY 2024-2025 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Public Hearing
Fresno Bee in Spanish and Receipt**



The Bonaville Gazette
The Belleville News-Democrat
Bellingham Herald
Centre Daily Times
Sun Herald
Lakeland Star
Bradenton Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The State
Ledger-Enquirer

Durham | The Herald-Sun
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Fresno Bee
The Island Packet
The Kansas City Star
Lexington Herald-Leader
The Telegraph - Macon
Merced Sun-Star
Miami Herald
El Nuevo Herald

The Modesto Bee
The San News - Meride Beach
Raleigh News & Observer
Rock Hill | The Herald
The Sacramento Bee
San Luis Obispo Tribune
Tulsa World
Tri-City Herald
The Wichita Eagle
The Olympian

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
20875	536971	Print Legal Ad-IPL01667150 - IPL0166715		\$921.54	2	50 L

Attention: Wesley Fagundes
FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
2035 TULARE ST, STE 201
FRESNO, CA 937212004

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El Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para el Proceso Anual de Necesidades de Tránsito No Cumplidas que comenzará a las 5:30 p.m. el Jueves, 25 de abril del 2024 en el **Salón Sequoia room del Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.**

La Junta de Políticas de Fresno COG tomará comentarios en esta audiencia pública en la región del Condado de Fresno que sean razonables para cumplir durante el año fiscal 2023-24. Además de esta audiencia pública, Fresno COG a llevado a cabo reuniones de alcance en todo el condado. Las agencias de tránsito involucradas en este proceso incluyen Fresno Area Express, la Agencia de Tránsito Rural de Fresno, Tránsito de Clovis, y la Comisión de Oportunidades Económicas de Fresno. Para obtener información adicional, visite www.fresnocog.org o comuníquese con Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express al número (559) 621-1532.

Las personas con discapacidades pueden llamar a Fresno COG (con un preaviso de 3 días laborables) para solicitar las ayudas auxiliares necesarias para participar en la audiencia pública. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles (con un preaviso de 3 días laborables) a los participantes que hablan cualquier idioma con los servicios de traducción profesional y disponible.
/s/ ROBERT PHIPPS, Director Ejecutivo Interino

IPL0166715
Mar 31 2024

**COUNTY OF DALLAS
STATE OF TEXAS**

The undersigned states:

McClatchy Newspapers in and on all dates herein stated was a corporation, and the owner and publisher of the Fresno Bee.

The Fresno Bee is a daily newspaper of general circulation now published, and on all the dates herein stated was published in the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, and has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Fresno, State of California, under the date of November 28, 1994, Action No. 520058-9.

The undersigned is and on all dates herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and is the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of said newspaper; and that the notice, a copy of which is hereto annexed, marked Exhibit A, hereby made a part hereof, was published in The Fresno Bee in each issue thereof (in type not smaller than nonpareil), on the following dates.

1 insertion(s) published on:

03/31/24

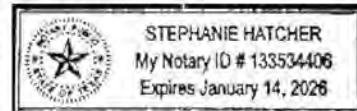
Isabel Capps

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

Dated: 04/02/2024

Stephanie Hatcher

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
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 The Belleville News-Democrat
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Durham | The Herald-Sun
 Fort Worth Star-Telegram
 The Fresno Bee
 The Island Packet
 The Kansas City Star
 Lexington Herald-Leader
 The Telegraph - Macon
 Merced Sun-Star
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The Modesto Bee
 The Sun News - Myrtle Beach
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Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
20875	536971	Print Legal Ad-IPL01667150 - IPL0166715		\$921.54	2	50 L

Attention: Billing Malle Vaddi
 FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
 2035 TULARE ST, STE 201
 FRESNO, CA 937212004

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fresno Council of Governments (COG) will hold a public hearing for the annual Unmet Transit Needs Process beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia room, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.

The Fresno COG Policy Board will take comments at the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing on public transportation needs within the Fresno County region that are reasonable to meet during the 2024-25 fiscal year. In addition to this public hearing, COG conducted outreach meetings throughout the County. Transit agencies involved in this process include Fresno Area Express, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, Clovis Transit, and the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. For Additional information, please visit www.fresnocog.org or contact Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express at (559) 621-1532.

Individuals with disability may call Fresno COG (with 3-working-day advance notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate in the public hearing. Translation services are available (with 3-working-day advance notice) to participants speaking any language with available translation services.
 /s/ ROBERT PHIPPS, Interim Executive Director Fresno Council of Governments

NOTICIA PÚBLICA

El Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para el Proceso Anual de Necesidades de Tránsito No Cumplidas que comenzará a las 5:30 p.m. el Jueves, 25 de abril del 2024 en el **Salón Sequoia room del Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.**

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 /s/ ROBERT PHIPPS, Director Ejecutivo Interino

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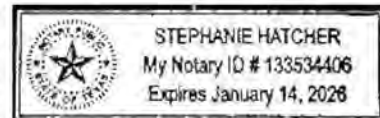
Isabel Capps

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

Dated: 04/02/2024

Stephanie Hatcher

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
 Legal document please do not destroy!

Exhibit E-1

Letter from Leadership Counsel



April 24th, 2024
Attn: Todd Sobrado
Fresno COG
2035 Tulare Street, Ste. 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Submitted via Email

RE: Fresno County Unmet Transit Needs Assessment 2024

To the Fresno Council of Governments (COG):

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability works alongside the most impacted communities and advocates for sound policy to eradicate injustice and secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place. We work alongside residents in the unincorporated communities of Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanare, Tombstone Territory, and the city residents Southwest Fresno, South Central Fresno, Southeast Fresno, and Jane Addams who have engaged in past and current Unmet Transit Needs Assessment advocacy to elevate transportation priorities in their communities. In 2023 we submitted a [comment letter](#) to highlight community projects that have yet to receive funding and submit this letter to continue to uplift these community priorities.

Communities like Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanare, and Tombstone Territory have been historically underinvested and community infrastructure needs continue to lack funding. We are noting these community priorities below and urge FCOG to prioritize these projects.

- Electric rideshare program
 - ◆ Residents in Lanare, Cantua Creek, and El Porvenir continue to express the necessity to create a rideshare program that will allow residents to move within the County and attend vital medical appointments, social services, and grocery stores.
- Complete streets project in Lanare to restore the following streets
 - ◆ South Chateau Fresno, South Garfield, South Grantland, and Mt Whitney Avenue
- Complete streets project in Cantua Creek and El Porvenir to restore the following streets
 - ◆ Cantua Creek: Domengine, Latta, Hidalgo, Terrado, Chappo, and Santa Clara Avenue
 - ◆ El Porvenir: El Progresso, Hidalgo, and Juarez Avenue
- Complete streets project in Tombstone Territory to restore the following streets
 - ◆ South Greenwood, South Cottle, South Tinoco, and South Fairbanks Avenue



- Safe routes to school leading from the communities of Cantua Creek and El Porvenir to Cantua Creek Elementary
- Bike lanes and complete sidewalks in Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanare, Tombstone Territory

Furthermore, we would like to, once again, bring to your attention the community priorities uplifted by City of Fresno residents and the residents of Britten Avenue as these projects have yet to be allocated funding and continue to create significant transportation challenges for residents.

- Repave East Central Avenue between Cherry Avenue and Chestnut Avenue.
- Protected bike lanes and complete sidewalks along Cedar Avenue from Jensen Avenue near Calwa Elementary towards Tulare Avenue at Roosevelt High.
- Complete sidewalks and bike lanes leading to Addams Elementary. This includes sidewalks along Marks Avenue from Olive to Clinton Avenues, especially on the east side of Marks.
- Complete streets project on East Central Avenue between Cherry Avenue and Chestnut Avenue so they are safer for pedestrians and bicycle riders.
- Leveling and paving Britten Avenue along Cherry Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration and time in reviewing our letter. We look forward to FCOG staff working in partnership with Fresno County, Fresno City, and residents to secure funding and address transportation community priorities.

Sincerely,
Mariana Alvarenga
Policy Advocate

Sincerely,
Emmanuel Agraz-Torres
Policy Advocate

Exhibit E-2

Fresno COG Response to Leadership Counsel Letter



2032 Tuttle St., Ste. 201 • (t) 559-233-4148
Fresno, California 93721 • fax 559-233-9845
www.fresnocog.org

May 14, 2024

Mariana Alvarenga, Policy Advocate
Emmanuel Agraz-Torres, Policy Advocate
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
2210 San Joaquin Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent via U.S. Mail and Email to malvarenga@leadershipcounsel.org and eagraztorres@leadershipcounsel.org

Dear Ms. Alvarenga and Mr. Agraz-Torres,

Thank you for your letter dated April 24, 2024, in which you engage the Fresno Council of Governments ("FCOG") in discussions relating to the 2024 Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) process. We have reviewed your letter along with our partners at the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency ("FCRTA"), Fresno Area Express ("FAX"), and Clovis Transit. Through this letter, FCOG staff responds to the comments in your letter.

The FCOG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Fresno County, annually conducts the unmet transit needs assessment process under section 99401.5 of the Public Utilities Code. Through this process, FCOG identifies "unmet transit needs" that are "reasonable to meet," as those terms are defined in FCOG Resolution No. 90-15, which represents a valid and effective protocol to facilitate the implementation of transportation policies and programs that respond to all community transit needs.

On the first page of your letter, you identify several priorities for communities that Leadership Counsel partners with, in rural Fresno County and in the City of Fresno. These communities include the unincorporated communities of Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanare, and Tombstone Territory. In the City of Fresno, these communities include the residents of Southwest Fresno, South Central Fresno, Southeast Fresno, and Jane Addams. Members of most of these communities have engaged in past and current Unmet Needs Assessment advocacy to elevate transportation priorities within their communities.

Your letter identifies 12 projects, for which Leadership Counsel and the residents of the communities listed above request support from FCOG. Of the projects listed, only one meets the criteria of a UTN,¹ specifically:

- Electric rideshare program
 - Residents in Lanare, Cantua Creek, and El Porvenir continue to express the necessity to create a rideshare program that will allow residents to move within the County and attend vital medical appointments, social services, and grocery stores.

FCOG, along with partner FCRTA, is in the process of determining whether this need is reasonable to meet. Factors which FCOG will consider include whether providing demand rideshare in such sparsely populated communities will cause the responsible operator (*i.e.*, FCRTA) to incur excessive expenditures, exceed its appropriations limitations, or fail to meet its farebox recovery requirement. There is no presumption under Resolution No. 90-15 that a UTN is reasonable until proven otherwise. To the contrary, Resolution No. 90-15

¹ "Those public transportation or specialized transportation services that are identified in the Regional Transportation Plan and/or documented through [FCOG]'s Annual Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Process that have not been implemented or funded." (Resolution No. 90-15.)

provides that "new service shall be based upon a feasibility analysis."

In an effort to gather data for such an analysis, FCRTA has implemented a micro transit / rideshare pilot project in the Community of Biola. If this transit model proves sustainable, this service will first be replicated in the community of Lanare and City of San Joaquin, which will also provide service to the communities of Cantua Creek, and El Porvenir. FCOG and FCRTA hope that, if the need for this pioneering kind of rural demand rideshare service proves reasonable to meet, the service can be expanded to provide greater coverage in the unincorporated area.

Your remaining list of community projects for Fresno County, includes:

- Complete streets project in Lanare to restore the following streets:
 - South Chateau Fresno, South Garfield, South Grantland, and Mt. Whitney Avenue.
- Complete streets project in Cantua Creek and El Porvenir to restore the following streets:
 - Cantua Creek: Domengine, Latta, Hidalgo, Terrado, Chappo, and Santa Clara Avenue.
- Complete streets project in Tombstone Territory to restore the following streets:
 - South Greenwood, South Cottle, South Tinoco, and South Fairbanks Avenue.
- Safe routes to school leading from the communities of Cantua Creek and El Porvenir to Cantua Creek Elementary.
- Bike lanes and complete sidewalks in Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Lanare, and Tombstone Territory

Your list of community projects for the City of Fresno, includes:

- Repave East Central Avenue between Cherry Avenue and Chestnut Avenue.
- Protected bike lanes and complete sidewalks along Cedar Avenue from Jensen Avenue near Calwa Elementary towards Tulare Avenue at Roosevelt High
- Complete sidewalks and bike lanes leading to Addams Elementary. This includes sidewalks along Marks Avenue from Olive to Clinton Avenues, especially on the east side of Marks.
- Complete streets project on East Central Avenue between Cherry Avenue and Chestnut Avenue so they are safer for pedestrians and bicycle riders.
- Leveling and paving Britten Avenue along Cherry Avenue.

While the projects listed above largely consist of infrastructure improvements and do not qualify as "public transportation or specialized transportation services," under Resolution No. 90-15, they may be eligible for funding through programs available to other agencies. These projects have been noted and forwarded to the appropriate agencies.

We encourage Leadership Counsel to work with the respective agencies that oversee these jurisdictions of the comments received, including Fresno County, the City of Fresno, school districts, and special districts. Additionally, there are funding opportunities through the Active Transportation Plan, and other sources that Leadership Counsel can apply for directly with the communities it works with to address these non-transit projects identified through the UTN process.

FCOG staff again thank you for your participation in the UTN process.

Harold Sobrado

Harold Todd Sobrado, Associate Planner
Fresno Council of Governments