

+Fresno Council of Governments

FY 2025/2026 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment



Fresno Council
of Governments

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 26, 2025

TO: Fresno COG Policy Board and the General Public.

FROM: Robert Phipps, Executive Director

SUBJECT: FY2025-2026 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATION

On May 20, 2025, as part of the Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Assessment process, the Social Services Transit Advisory Committee (SSTAC) made the finding that there are 3 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 3 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 May 29, 2025, 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) 2025-2026 (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026), prior to approving LTF claims for local streets and roads. The time and place of the Public Hearing that was legally noticed was as follows:

Date: May 29, 2025
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721-2004

The Public Hearing was initially scheduled to take place at 5:30 PM on Thursday, April 24, 2025, in the Sequoia Room at the offices of Fresno COG. Because of a technical issue, the Public Hearing for the FY2025-26 FCOG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment was rescheduled to 5:30 PM Thursday, May 29, 2025, at the same location. Public noticing for the rescheduled meeting was completed within the required timeframe.

[Placeholder for a description of the Public Hearing on April 24, 2025].

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 2025-2026, the estimated Local Transportation Fund amount for Fresno County is \$59 million, of which \$180,628 is programmed for administration and audits. The remaining \$58,819,319 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 2025-2026.

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 2025-2026

Agency	Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities	Social Service Transportation	Regional Transportation Planning	Public Transportation	Total
Clovis	145,839	374,714	203,664	6,585,148	7,309,366
Coalinga	19,780		27,622	893,122	940,524
Firebaugh	9,730		13,588	439,330	462,647
Fowler	8,518		11,895	384,616	405,029
Fresno City	632,426		883,183	28,556,247	30,071,856
Huron	7,340		10,250	331,416	349,006
Kerman	19,952		27,863	900,901	948,716
Kingsburg	15,080		21,059	680,896	717,035
Mendota	14,489		20,234	654,218	688,940
Orange Cove	11,003		15,365	496,811	523,197
Parlier	16,613		23,200	750,124	789,937
Reedley	29,661		41,421	1,339,291	1,410,373
Sanger	30,475		42,558	1,376,046	1,449,078
San Joaquin	4,181		5,839	188,784	198,804
Selma	28,179		39,351	1,272,361	1,339,890
Fresno County	183,124		255,733	8,268,699	8,707,556
FCRTA		818,101			818,101
FAX		1,689,334			1,689,334
Total	1,176,387	2,882,149	1,642,825	53,118,011	58,819,372

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 three unmet transit needs;
 - (b) There are three unmet transit needs, which are not 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 2025-2026 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 438 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 1,228 people on the Fresno COG mailing list. 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 several different ways. Online, an email address was set up at comments@fresnocog.org as well as at utn2025@publicinput.com. Additionally, a dedicated web page on the FCOG website at <https://www.fresnocog.org/unmet-transit-needs-assessment/> is maintained. There are also two separate pages set up on <https://www.publicinput.com>, the FCOG public outreach portal. The first page is the program page at <https://publicinput.com/unmet.transit.needs/> that describes the overall program. The second page contains the link to the survey for the current cycle that contains the link to the survey can be found at <https://publicinput.com/unmet.transit.needs/>.

There are several additional ways that transit riders and stakeholders can submit their comments electronically. They can complete the survey in English via text message to Utn25 to 73224 and in Spanish to Utn25s, also to 73224. Lastly, voice mail messages were able to be left at (855) 925-2801, extension 11041. Transit riders and stakeholders can also complete the survey via text message at Utn25 to 73224 and Utn25s, also to 73224.

Transit riders and stakeholders were also able to send comments and feedback via US Mail to:

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 while the remaining two were held in incorporated 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 on March 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM PST, 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, Kerman and Fowler.

Because of the success last year with public outreach in rural areas, FCOG again partnered with the Fresno County Housing Authority holding meetings at their properties in Kerman and Fowler. [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 FY2025-2026 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 Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 11:00 AM. All meetings were well publicized in advance through the UTN Mailing lists as well as through social media. Specific details of each in-pers 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. This year is no different. It continues to be 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 utn2025@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 response, 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, May 29, 2025, at the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting satisfies this requirement.

In FY2025-2026, in-person public outreach for the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment consisted of six in-person meetings, the details of which are below:

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 1 – Thursday, February 20, 2025, in the City of Kerman.

The first in-person public meeting took place within rural Fresno County, on Tuesday, February 20, 2025, 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
- Eunice Gomez, Housing Authority
- Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit
- Thomas Dulin, FEOC Transit

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

By the time Harold arrived at this event, FHA employee, Eunice Gomez was already at the facility. This event started when Harold arrived first at this meeting. Shortly after his arrival, he was joined by Eunice Gomez, the Property Manager. Upon her arrival, Harold had an extensive conversation with her about her transit needs and those of the residents at her location. 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. Regarding transportation needs of her tenants, many of them have personal vehicles but few occasionally use local public transit. She says she is not aware of any complaints or issues.

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

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 2 – Monday, February 24, 2025, in the City of Fresno

The second in-person public meeting took place within metropolitan Fresno County, on Monday, February
FY 2025-2026 UTN Assessment

24, 2025, at 5:30 PM PST in the City of Fresno at:

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

The people present at this meeting were:

- Harold Sobrado, Fresno COG and FAX
- Moses Stites, FCRTA
- Nick Chin, Clovis Transit
- Drew Wilson, FAX

As with all in-person public events, this event was marketed through all Fresno COG marketing channels, including its newsletter, and social media channels. First arriving, was Harold Sobrado to set up and get the meeting room ready. Moses Stites from FCRTA arrived a few minutes before the scheduled start time followed by Nick Chin, from Clovis Transit. Lastly, Drew Wilson, representing FAX arrived.

No transit riders or members of the public attended this event. This event concluded at 6:30 pm.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 3, – Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM in the City of Fresno.

The third public outreach meeting took place in the City of Fresno on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM at:

Mosqueda Community Center Conference Room #1
4670 E. Butler Ave.,
Fresno, CA 93702

The people present at this meeting include:

- Harold Sobrado, FAX and FCOG
- Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit
- Drew Wilson, FAX

As with all in-person public events, this event was marketed through all Fresno COG marketing channels, including its newsletter, and social media channels. First to arrive was Harold Sobrado, followed by Bethany Berube, representing Clovis Transit, followed by Drew Wilson from FAX. No transit riders or members of the public attended this event. The event concluded at 6:05 PM.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 4 – Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 5:30 PM, in the City of Clovis

The fourth in-person public outreach meeting was held in the City of Clovis on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 5:30 PM. The people present at this meeting include:

- Harold Sobrado, FAX and FCOG
- Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit
- Nick Chin, Clovis Transit
- Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA

As with all in-person public outreach events, this event was marketed through all Fresno COG marketing channels, including its newsletter, and social media channels. This public outreach event was hosted by Bethany Berube and Nick Chin, from Clovis Transit. Harold Sobrado arrived at 5:15, followed by Janelle Del Campo, from FCRTA, at 5:30 pm.

As with prior in-person public outreach events, this Unmet Transit Needs cycle, no transit riders or members of the public attended this event. This meeting concluded at 6:10 pm.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting #5 – Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 11:00 AM in the City of Fresno

The fifth in-person public outreach meeting was also the only one to take place on a Saturday. It was held at:

Maxie L. Parks Community Center
1802 Cesar Chavez Blvd.,
Fresno, CA 93706

The people present at this meeting include:

- Harold Sobrado, FCOG and FAX
- Yonas Paulos, SSTAC member and veteran's advocate

Like the others, this meeting was staffed by Harold Sobrado and was attended by SSTAC member, Yonas Paulos. He showed up five minutes past the scheduled start time on his way to a community event. Yonas is a long-time transit rider, and veterans advocate with a deep understanding of the transit system and a firm grasp on the pulse of the community. As a result, he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the process.

Yonas has long had a pulse on the community providing valuable feedback and suggestions to improve service levels to the most vulnerable segments of society. During COVID, FAX, the largest transit agency in the region extended free transit service to former and current veterans, having valid military IDs. This has had a significant impact on many veterans, many who continue to be over-represented in local, state, and federal 'unhoused' communities.

Virtual Public Outreach Meeting Number 1 – Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 11:00 AM

The sixth public outreach meeting took place online on ZOOM on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 11:00 AM. People attending this event included:

- Harold Sobrado, FCOG and FAX
- Denise Flores FCOG
- Jayson Martinez, Carpenter's Union

- Yonas Paulos, SSTAC member and veteran's advocate
- Lorena Mendibles, CalTrans District 6
- David Huff, CalTrans, District 6
- Bob McCloskey, Transit Rider and foothills resident
- Nick Chin, Clovis Transit

This was the best attended “in-person” public outreach meeting this cycle of the UTN. While most of the people in attendance represented stakeholders in the local transit community, Jayson Flores attended on behalf of the local Carpenter’s Union. Bob McCloskey and his wife Linda joined the conversation as transit riders.

Most of this meeting consisted of conversation with Bob and his wife Linda and transportation stakeholders. Much of the discussion pertained to transit service to and from Yokuts Valley between surrounding communities and the City of Fresno. In addition to discussing the need for service to Yokuts Valley, part of the conversation consisted of the pilot project that was run in mid-2015 to determine feasibility. In FY2016-17, the route was discontinued because of not meeting the required 10% fare box ratio, the minimum threshold whereby at least 10% of operating costs must be recouped from collected fares.

Additional topics of conversation included ideas for how to improve public outreach for in-person meetings. Ideas were documented for discussion with SSTAC, the Committee overseeing the UTN on behalf of FCOG for possible implementation in future cycles.

As a follow up, FCRTA staff have reached out to Bob and Linda to discuss their rural transportation needs, and specifically, urban paratransit services.

In-Person Public Outreach Meeting Number 6 – Thursday, March 6, 2025 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 6, 2025, at 5:30 PM, in the City of Fowler, at:

Fowler Magnolia Apartments
325 E. Vine St.
Fowler, CA 93625

This event was attended by:

- Harold Sobrado, FCOG and FAX
- Moses Stites, FCRTA
- Nick Chin, Clovis Transit
- FHA coordinator (forthcoming)
- Guest 1 (forthcoming)
- Guest 2 (forthcoming)
- Guest 3 (forthcoming)

This public outreach meeting was attended by three residents of the apartment complex, all were

women, and all were primarily Spanish speakers. As a result, this meeting was conducted in Spanish. Harold Sobrado and Moses Stites. While not certified translators, both Harold and Moses are fluent in Spanish.

The coordinator overseeing the event provided a powerful incentive to encourage participation, a \$25 Amazon gift card. As a result, three members of the public showed up. However, they were not frequent transit riders. Two participants had a vehicle as their primary mode of transportation, while the third participant relied on walking as her primary mode of transportation. When asked about transit, they said that they occasionally use rural transit. One participant, a young mother, said she previously used FAX recently when she attended Fresno City College.

Public Hearing, Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 5:30 PM, at:

The final component of the FY2025-26 Public Outreach process was a formal public hearing that was scheduled to take place at the FCOG Policy Board meeting at 5:30 PM on Thursday, April 24, 2025. As a precautionary measure to avoid not satisfying all of the public noticing requirements, the Public Hearing was rescheduled to the May 2025, FCOG Policy Board meeting scheduled for 5:30 PM, on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

[Placeholder for the summary of the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing]

Comments about Participation in In-Person Public Outreach Events in the Current Cycle of the UTN.

In the FY2020-2021 cycle of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment, COVID drove all public outreach online. Participation in in-person public outreach events has not returned to pre-COVID levels. This is particularly apparent in this year's cycle where there has not been any public participation in the first four in-person events. The most attended "in-person" public outreach event was the only virtual event, taking place through ZOOM.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK RECEIVED FOR THE FY 2025-2026 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, May 29, 2025.

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, 32 comments have been received, four of which are duplicative. As a result, they are numbered as a, b, c, and d, with each counted as their own comment. Of the comments received, three were found to meet the definition of an ‘unmet transit need’, that are NOT reasonable to meet. These are items numbers 11, 12, and 13, on the table below. Items 11 and 12 are assigned to FAX, while item 13 is assigned jointly to ‘FAX and Clovis’. Of what remains, there are 29 items not meeting the definition of an unmet transit need and 18 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 for each transit agency, FCOG, and the combination of transit agencies received are as follows:

Jurisdiction	Item Number in the Matrix in Table 1
All	7,26
FAX	5,8,11,12,14,18,20,24,25,28
FAX and Clovis Transit	2,13,21,27
FAX and FCRTA	17,22,23
Clovis Transit	9,10
Clovis Transit and FCRTA	
FCRTA	1,4,6,15,16,19,29a,29b,29c,29d
FCOG	3
Unknown	

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

Note: Public Comments shown below are included as verbatim.

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

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
1	FCRTA	Between cities like Parlier to Reedley or Sanger, mostly near downtown or major shopping centers, for example, in Parlier would be grocery shopping, Sanger would be around Walmart or the library and Reedley, downtown or college or Savemart. Generally, during business hours, depending on what days. A bussing system between cities with disability capabilities, wheelchair users and people who have trouble walking	There are fixed routes that currently provide services between the cities referenced and intra city demand response service in each City noted.	No	No	No
2	FAX and Clovis Transit	I use transit for ArtHop every first Thursday at various art studios and galleries; being able to travel downtown and to the Tower District from the Clovis area. Directly. I also use the bus service both weekdays and weekend, mostly evening times ideally between 6-10 pm. With shelters, safe lighting, and security cameras around. We need the Clovis lines to be able to go through downtown and Tower district, and round trip. I'm an autistic artist who	Clovis Transit: Fixed Route service to Downtown Fresno and the Tower District extends beyond Clovis Transit's Fixed Route service area. Clovis Roundup Paratransit provides limited service to Downtown Fresno for eligible ADA-certified riders. Requests for extended evening service hours (6-10 pm) would require reallocating existing resources, resulting in potential service reductions in other areas. Bus stop amenities such as shelters, lighting, and security cameras are	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		can't drive, and I live near Clovis. Transportation has been a huge barrier in my life to be able to pursue a full-time Artist career.	not considered an unmet transit need. We will continue to strive to ensure bus stops have shelters and lighting as best as possible with the funding available. FAX Response: FAX provides transit service to both the downtown and the Tower District via multiple routes with service as late as midnight Monday through Saturday.			
3	FCOG	Generally, I use transit for the Doctor or medically related services on weekdays during business hours. Is it possible to increase the scrip purchase amount to 250.00 or 300.00? Several times a month, I have appointments. Thank you for providing the taxi scrip service. It has been a great help.	The Taxi Scrip program does not pertain to unmet transit needs (UTN). However, the program is overseen by the same agency. As a result, your comment has been forwarded to the responsible party.	No	No	No
4	FCRTA	Huntington and Shaver Lakes, Reedley, and Firebaugh on weekends, all day. TRANSFER POINTS are the biggest weakness in FAX's service: Have the buses wait for passengers on both lines so they don't have to wait a half hour for the next bus. Post scheduled	There is currently no service in Shaver Lake and Huntington as the ridership does not warrant such service due to farebox requirements.	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		departure times at checkpoint stops. It should be simple to do. Not everyone has the Internet available at the stops.				
5	FAX	We need a transit service to Fresno that will accommodate residents that need to go to the north Fresno/ Herndon area. This is where most doctors are, and frail persons cannot walk long distances. Thank you	FAX Route 3 services Herndon Avenue between Riverside Blvd., and Willow Avenue with service to Clovis Community College and Clovis North High School. Route 3 services St. Agnes Medical Center and many medical providers along Herndon Avenue.	No	No	Yes
6	FCOG	I would like to be able to get from Yokuts Valley to Fresno, on weekdays, between 9 am and 4 pm. Make bike lanes from Yokuts Valley to Clovis/Fresno.	Bike lanes are not a function of transit providers. This comment will be forwarded to the appropriate agency, Fresno County.	No	No	No
7	All	I would like to see an easy transfer service on weekends from Fresno to outlying rural areas such as Kerman. Also, Children's Hospital, I would like to see Handyrider go there and into the main sections of Herndon to Clovis Community Hospital and if there's a church Handy Ride goes to, then the boundaries on Sunday's schedule should stay the same and go there in the evening hours as well. I use transit both weekends and	FAX Response: FAX offers services between Children's Hospital and the City of Fresno. The City of Clovis is planning changes to its fixed-route transit system and will have two routes connecting at Clovis Memorial Hospital. FCRTA Response: FCRTA does not provide service from Kerman due to low ridership and farebox requirements.	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		weekdays, until 10 pm at the very least; Until 10 pm daily, at the very least. Can Handyride ever be a similar system as clovis paratransit where people can request like an uber or lyft maybe have vans or cars available				
8	FAX	I use transit to and from my home to anywhere. The nearest bus stops are too far away. I also use transit both weekdays and weekends, from 7 am to 9 pm. Serving of areas that are within the city but too far from the main streets that bus lines currently operate on	Bus stops are situated approximately a quarter mile apart while stops along BRT are half mile apart.	No	No	Yes
9	Clovis Transit and Clovis Paratransit	Shaw and Temperance weekdays and weekends, all day.	Paratransit (Roundup) currently provides service to Shaw and Temperance. Clovis Transit is in the final stage of a route redesign project, with new routes planned to be in service early in 2025. The Pink line and Green line will provide coverage to Shaw and Temperance. The new routes are posted on our website, www.clovistransit.com . Extending service hours to operate all day on weekdays and weekends would require reallocating existing resources, resulting in potential service reductions in	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
			other areas.			
10	Clovis Transit	I use transit weekdays and weekends from 9 am onwards to go to and from Veteran's Home at California and Marks. Also, more buses are needed into Clovis until at least 9 pm.	Providing extended service into Clovis until 9 pm would require reallocating existing resources, resulting in potential service reductions in other areas.	No	No	No
11	FAX	Fresno Yosemite Airport early morning or evening flights after 8:49 pm weekdays, or 7 pm weekends. Millerton Lake would be nice. I use FAX on weekdays and weekends.	Fresno Yosemite Airport (FYI) is serviced by routes 26, and 39 and are accessible to all the routes making up the FAX fixed-route network. Service on Route 26 starts at 6:08 AM and ends at 10:09 PM, while Route 39 services starts and ends at 5:30 AM and 9:54 PM, respectively. Unfortunately, FAX does not provide service before 5:30 AM and after 10:30 PM as a need has not yet been demonstrated. Additionally, extending the service as requested would necessitate funding outside of current sources. Millerton Lake is outside of the service area for FAX.	Yes	No	No
12	FAX	Going to areas in Clovis can be difficult. Some resources, especially for help with utilities are in Clovis. I use transit both weekend and weekdays in the early morning and late evenings. Also, riding the bus around school	FAX and Clovis Transit collaborate very closely to service the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area, providing weekday and weekend service. Specifically, FAX route 9 provides service along Shaw Avenue in the City of Clovis.	Yes	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		times can be difficult, due to overcrowding. During the summer it can be difficult to catch a bus due to the heat. On Blackstone it's not as bad due to the buses running every 15 minutes, but in other areas it's really too hot to be out in the sun for 30 minutes to an hour with no shade. It's especially difficult if you have health issues or are elderly.	Hours and service area are dictated by Clovis Transit. Routes 3, 28, and 45 provide service to city boundaries and have transfer opportunities to Clovis Transit. There are many students in the FAX service area that rely on public transit every day. As a result, buses servicing public schools can experience higher than normal usage below and after school hours. FAX operates "trippers" to ease crowding on these routes during those times. FAX continues to invest in bus stop shelters as funding is available.			
13	FAX and Clovis Transit	Fowler/Ashlan, McKinley/Willow, weekdays, between 9am and 6pm. In the summertime, all buses need to be 15 minutes. It's too hot, there needs to be an actual reader at the bus stop that tells you if the bus is on time or not. There also needs to be covered benches	Clovis Transit: Increasing "frequency" would require shifting existing resources and reductions in service in "other" areas. Regarding bus time arrival times, this information is available from third party transit applications such as Transit, Moovit, and Google Transit.	Yes	No	No
14	FAX	To and from anywhere in Fresno/Clovis. We need more buses and more bus routes to where we can wait no more than 10 minutes for a bus to pick us up. Use transit weekends and on weekdays, between 7	Available resources provide for the level of service that transit agencies can provide. Routes with higher ridership are likely to operate at higher frequencies such as routes 1, 9, 34, and 38. Lastly, FAX continues to invest in bus stop	No	No	Yes

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		am and 9 pm. The bus stops are horrible because they leave us exposed to the elements, like cold rainy weather and super-hot weather. The stops need more shade, fans, and air conditioning.	shelters as funding is available and ridership thresholds are met.			
15	FCRTA	Weekend transit between Kerman and Fresno. Preferably, areas other than just Downtown, as well. Transit rider on both weekdays and weekends in the early morning and later evening.	ridership and farebox requirements does not make this request viable for weekend service.	No	No	No
16	FCRTA	I'd like to reach the rural parts of Fresno County and use the bus on weekends, between 6 am and 10 pm. There needs to be more connections to recreational spots like Millerton Lake. People need to be able to use public transit to have a good time and not risk going down Friant with drunk drivers.	Ridership and farebox requirements do not allow for the hours requested and days of service as public transit is for essential services not necessarily weekend sports activities.	No	No	No
17	FAX and FCRTA	Doctor's appointment: They should have bus service from Kingsburg to Fresno on weekends. Use transit all the time between 7 am and 9 pm. The bus stops with covered benches and cameras. Buses being every 15 minutes all routes	Available resources provide for the level of service that transit agencies can provide. Routes with higher ridership are likely to operate at higher frequencies such as routes 1, 9, 34, and 38. Lastly, FAX continues to invest in bus stop shelters as funding is available and ridership thresholds are met.	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
18	FAX	Use FAX to go down Gettysburg to WinCo, both weekdays and weekends. Stops have no way to get out of the sun. Dangerous in summer	FAX continues to invest in bus stop shelters as funding is available.	No	No	No
19	FCRTA	I would love to have buses that take me from Parlier to Fresno's public libraries and recreational areas such as parks and walking trails. I work in Fresno, so I have to commute for almost 40 minutes for work. My commute time is impacted by the traffic, so having a more reliable public transportation would lessen the amount of cars on the freeway; In rural towns such as Parlier, Reedley, Selma, and Sanger. A lot of Parlier folks like me have to travel to the nearby towns for medical needs, groceries, and other necessities. We need more rural buses that can take us around our towns and other nearby towns. Use FCRTA on weekdays and weekends, between 7am to 9pm. Many bus stops are hard to see. They are covered by trees in neighborhoods. They are also in unsafe areas.	There are fixed routes available to do some of the noted trips, however not all can be accommodated due to funding constraints and farebox and ridership requirements.	No	No	No
20	FAX	Need closer bus stops in residential areas. I	Bus stop spacing is a quarter mile on regular	No	No	Yes

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		been riding fax since I was a teen and I have noticed a few new and younger drivers , and they are rude, unprofessional and inconsiderate of the riders.	routes and half mile on BRT. Driver behavior is not related to unmet transit needs. Your comment will be shared with the appropriate parties.			
21	FAX and Clovis Transit	The east west buses do not run often enough or late enough to be useful in the evenings. Most bus stops are dirty and some don't even have shelters; Why are Clovis bus lines nearly impossible to connect with	<p>Clovis Transit: Clovis Transit's fixed-route service (Stageline) operates weekdays from 6:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Extending service hours to operate later in the evening would require reallocating existing resources, resulting in potential service reductions in other areas. Bus stop cleanliness and amenities such as shelters do not meet the definition of an unmet transit need. We will continue to strive to ensure bus stops are clean and have shelters and lighting as best as possible with the funding available. Clovis Transit is currently undergoing a route redesign process, expected to launch in early 2025, which aims to improve connectivity and service frequency.</p> <p>FAX Response: Available resources provide for the level of service that transit agencies can provide. Routes with higher ridership are likely to</p>	N/A	No	Yes

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
			operate at higher frequencies such as routes 1, 9, 34, and 38.			
22	FAX and FCRTA	<p>The Fresno/south area, which is still counted as Fresno and not Fowler and Fowler is still quite a walk aways for 3 bus times and no weekends. I also use transit both on weekdays and weekends. Late evenings need to be increased weekend times as well. Things and people don't stop at 5-7 pm just because it's the weekend. A bus that waits and communicates with/for its transfers. The number of times the transfer has left as its bus is just waiting at the light or pulling up and people are crossing the street to catch it are uncountable. Constantly being made late for work, even leaving 2hrs before start time or being left on the other side of town late at night because the last bus decided to leave early.</p>	<p>FAX Response: FAX offers service in South Fresno as far as Central Ave. on Route 34 with service on weekdays every 15 minutes from 6 AM to 6 PM. The Fowler area is outside of Fresno City limits and the FAX service area.</p> <p>FCRTA Response: FCRTA does not provide weekend service due to low or no ridership from Fowler to Fresno. Also, the farebox requirements are not met as required by the State of California.</p>	No	No	Yes
23	FCRTA and Clovis Transit	Kerman, Clovis, Madera; Doctors office in Kerman, Clovis. I use transit all of the time. Get the schedules right. The bus doesn't come when it says or not at	Our public transit only operates in Fresno County not Madera County. There are routes to and from doctor offices.	No	No	Yes

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		all				
24	FAX	Woodward Park and I use transit all of the time. More stops for the 1/Q line, especially when the driver skips over your requested stop.	FAX Response: Route 1 is FAX's Bus Rapid Transit route. A characteristic of rapid transit is spacing between bus stops no less than half mile. There are no plans to increase stops along Route 1/Q.	No	No	No
25	FAX	I would like to see more stops down Blackstone. I ride in transit all the time and prefer early morning and late service. Cleaner buses... The seats are always so disgusting, and my child can never sit on the chairs because they are so dirty, then the bus drivers get mad if kids aren't sitting down in a seat. If the seats were cleaned more often, maybe the children would have seats to sit down on.	Route 1 is FAX's bus rapid transit route. A characteristic of rapid transit is spacing between bus stops no less than half mile. There are no plans to increase stops along Route 1/Q. Bus maintenance and driver behavior is outside of the purview of unmet transit needs. However, your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate parties.	N/A	No	No
26	All	Rephrased from below: "I want to improve service at Sanger and at Valley Children's. I live in Visalia and use public transit during the week and on weekends. Being on the bus for 24 hours or relying on people just to get to work is difficult. There needs to be better transit service- especially on Route 58E, near emergency	Clovis Transit: Clovis Transit provides fixed-route service within the City of Clovis and limited paratransit service (Roundup) to certain areas in Fresno. Service to Visalia, Sanger, or Valley Children's Hospital is outside of Clovis Transit's service area. Clovis Transit's current service hours do not operate 24 hours. FAX Response: FAX services Children's	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		<p>services, and to Valley Children's Hospital.</p> <p>Also, more service is needed going north and south, especially for D/HH (deaf and hard of hearing) people, as well as senior citizens, need better transit options."</p> <p>I want to fix it at Sanger and Visalia at Valley Children's, but I am feeling at be there. I live in Visalia and use transit on weekdays and weekends. 24 hours on the bus or people is work must is Change but how is ride need something at 58E and in emergency services and valley children need is ride or something on north or south need is more service to at D/HH Deaf or hearing of hard need is Service on senior citizens ride that why on FAX.</p>	<p>Hospital via Route 58E. Frequencies are determined by available funding and does not support 24-hour service. Emergency service is outside of the scope of the Unmet Transit Needs. Please call 911 for emergency service.</p>			
27	FAX and Clovis Transit	Trying to go from my neighborhood on Hamilton and Temperance to downtown Fresno, only offers a few departure and arrival times that places me downtown after normal starting hours for business and where I would have to leave work early to catch a ride back home. We have so	Clovis Transit: Clovis Transit's new routes, scheduled to launch in early 2025, will provide connection points with Fresno Area Express (FAX) to enhance access to Downtown Fresno. However, direct service from Clovis to Downtown Fresno is not within Clovis Transit's service area. FAX Response: In	: No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		many residents who cannot afford a car at these times, please expand BEYOND the city centers. The outer parts of southeast Fresno keep expanding with houses and high schools, but no way to travel into Fresno without a car. Use transit both weekdays and weekends, before work hours (8 am), lunch hours (noon-2pm), after work hours (5 pm)	August 2025, FAX will implement a service along Church Ave. to Fowler. Additional service will be added as funding becomes available and ridership demand increases.			
28	FAX	Transportation is needed to/from airport from 4am - 7 am weekdays and weekends, and also 8 pm-midnight weekdays and weekends. These are busy times for arrivals and departures from FAX. I use transit weekdays and weekends.	FAX routes 26 and 39 service the Fresno Yosemite International (FYI) Airport at a 30-minute frequency starting at 6:00 and running through to 9:30/10:00 PM, weekdays. Weekend service is also running on both routes on a 30-minute frequency between 7 AM and 7 PM.	No	No	No
29a	FCRTA	There should be service between Yokuts Valley (Bear Mountain Library) and Fresno. I use transit on weekdays, starting in the morning and returning by 6pm. I think transit between Yokuts Valley and Fresno would be utilized both by people who can't drive but could get a ride from a friend to the transit stop (preferably	There have been several attempts to start a route in this service area, however due to the lack of riders and farebox recovery the routes ended after a demonstration period.	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		Bear Mountain Library) and by people who would drive themselves to the stop and take transit into town from there.				
29b	FCRTA	I need public transit from Bear Mountain Library in Yokuts Valley to downtown Reedley and Reedley College, and to Fresno grocery shopping and Kaiser health appointments, Amtrak train station, Fresno city hall, Fresno City College and Fresno State University. Downtown Fresno, and major shopping centers at Clovis and Shaw, Clovis and Kings Canyon, Blackstone corridor....	There have been several attempts to start a route in this service area. However, due to the lack of riders and farebox recovery, the routes ended after a demonstration period.	No	No	No
29c	FCRTA	Yokuts Valley (Bear Mountain Branch Library), Choinumni Park, Dunlap, Reedley. Need transit both weekdays and weekends, for at a minimum, during business hours, ideally between 7am-9pm. More bike lanes, safe bike lanes, intersections with Bike lights, safe bike lanes to our rural communities including our foothill communities	Bike lanes do not fall under the purview of unmet transit needs. However, your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate agency, Fresno County.	No	No	No
29d	FCRTA	I would like transit service between Yokut Valley and the City of Fresno, including Blackstone	See comments in 29 a, and 29 b. above.	No	No	No

NO.	RESP. PARTY	FY25 UTN COMMENTS REC'D	TRANSIT AGENCY RESPONSE	UNMET TRANSIT NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET (Yes, No)	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESPONSE (Yes, No)
		Ave. A perfect stop would be the library in Yokuts Valley. Additionally, it is suggested that flyers for the UTN be distributed to libraries and other county offices that interface with the general public.				

DISCUSSION FROM SSTAC RELATING TO THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE FY 2025-2026 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 1 is the list of comments received during the FY2025-2026 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 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.

(Placeholder for summary of the SSTAC meeting approving the final report here.)

INSTRUCTIONS AND NEXT STEPS FOR TTC/PAC PERTAINING TO THE FY 2025-2026 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The publicly noticed hearing to receive comments regarding potential unmet transit needs in Fresno County was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025, 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 15, 2025, 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, SSTAC was asked to make a finding that there are three 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 also given the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments about the process and the Assessment itself. They were then asked to make a motion to approve the draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for FY 2025-26, forwarding it to the Fresno COG Technical Transportation Committee / Policy Advisory Committee (TTC/PAC). The motion was made by (SSTAC member name) and seconded by (SSTAC member name).

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 2026-2030 FCMA SRTP is expected to be adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on June 26, 2025. 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 2025-2026 Operations Program and Budget for the City of Clovis and the Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) is expected to be adopted on June 26, 2025.

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 2026-2030 and is expected to be adopted on June 26, 2025. 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 \$42.0 million in the State of California Transportation Development Act - Local Transportation Funds. FAX is also anticipating \$15.1 million in Measure C funds and \$19.9 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 2025-2026, a "transit needs finding" is necessary to be consistent with SB-498. SB-498 states that 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, 2025-2026, the estimated cost for the operation of Clovis Transit is \$13,300,000. 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 that 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 \$10,615,898. The Services will be funded with \$5,027,777 of State Transportation Development Act - (TDA) Local Transportation Funds (LTF). The FCRTA will utilize \$795,385 from its Measure – C funds to support the operations. An additional \$2,231,389 will be funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5311. Farebox receipts are projected to be \$1,706,993 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 CTSAs, 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 CTSAs. Under this new-sole designation status, FEOC continues to be a significant participant in both the Urban and Rural CTSAs.

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 2025-2026 OPBs are scheduled for adoption on June 26, 2025, 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 CTSAs 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 CTSAs. Fresno COG approved self-designation for the Fresno Urban and Rural CTSAs on November 19, 2020.

Analysis of Proposed Public Transportation Services and Recommended Findings for -Local Agencies FY 2025-2026

A. City of Clovis

The City of Clovis operates two types of public transit services within its jurisdiction. Clovis Round Up is a specialized demand responsive service designated as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for the Clovis Transit Service Area, serving elderly and disabled residents. Clovis Stageline provides general public fixed route service within the city limits, currently operating two main routes and two school routes.

In 2025, Clovis will significantly expand its fixed-route network with the launch of eight newly developed routes. This expansion aims to improve travel efficiency, enhance access to employment, education, healthcare and strengthen regional transit connections.

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 finds 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 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 a fixed route service seven (7) days-a-week throughout the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. As of this writing, the City of Clovis and Fresno County financially participates in subsidizing 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 towards those who are unable to use the fixed-route service.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Fresno COG Policy Board finds that there are three 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 "lifeline" 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 that 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 an 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 finds 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 on 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 finds 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 that the Fresno COG Policy Board finds 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 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 (S RTP) 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 S RTP 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 lifeline 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 is a service operated by MV Transportation, which started in operation 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 in 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

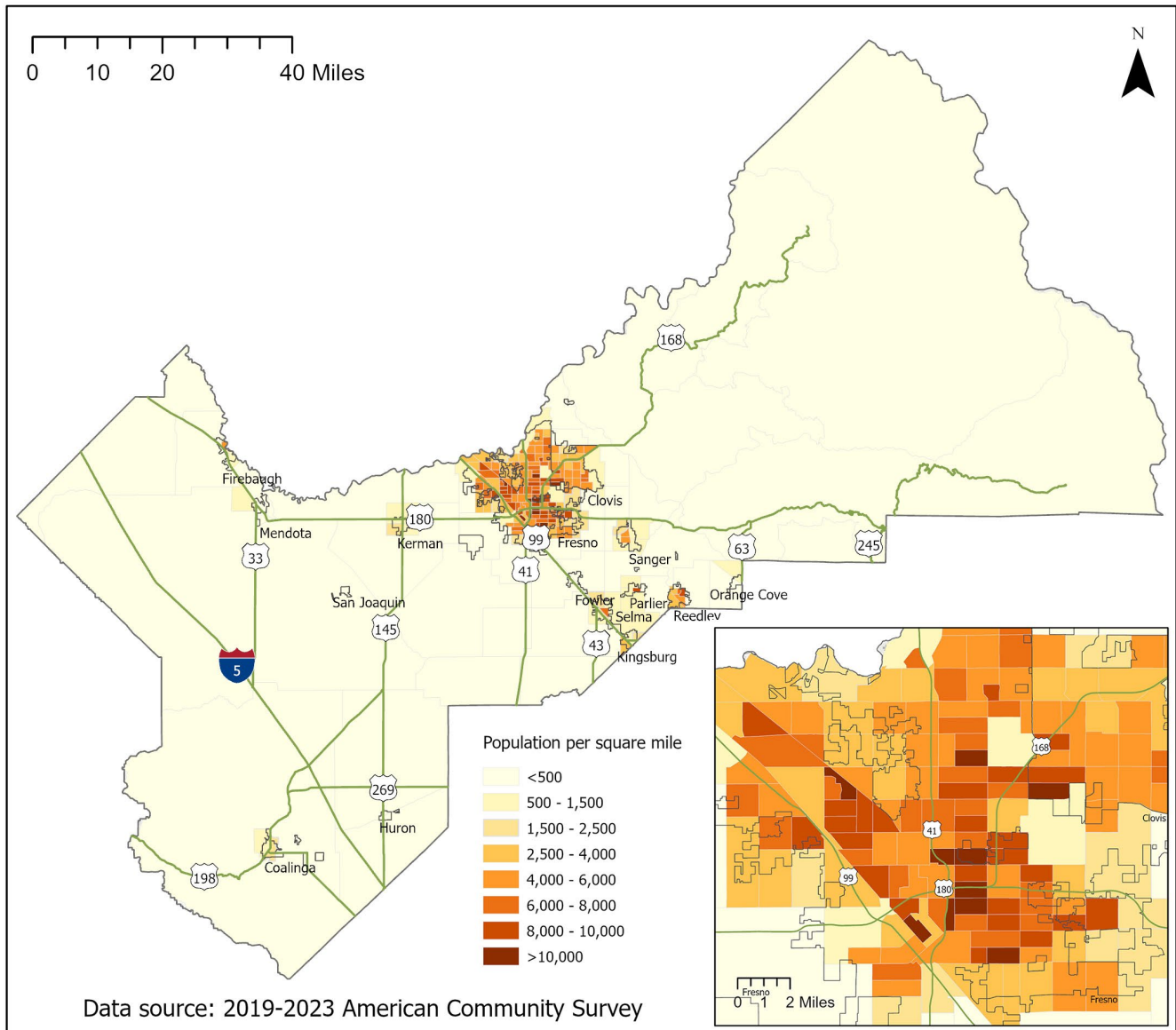


Table 2 shows the 1-year population estimate for 2024. The most rapid population increase between 2020 and 2024 occurred in the Cities of Fowler, with growth of 9.92%, followed closely by Kerman with growth of 7.82%. Other Fresno County cities with population growth between 2020 and 2024 were Kingsburg (5.31%, Clovis (5.15%), Firebaugh (3.99%), Huron (3.56%), Reedley (2.94%), and Fresno (0.88%). All other incorporated cities, including Coalinga, 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 2024

Jurisdiction	Population			% Change 2020 - 2024
	2020	2023	2024	
City of Clovis	119,950	124,361	126,133	5.15%
City of Coalinga	18,038	17,191	17,107	-5.16%
City of Firebaugh	8,092	8,480	8,415	3.99%
City of Fowler	6,702	7,163	7,367	9.92%
City of Fresno	542,206	543,087	546,971	0.88%
City of Huron	6,130	6,119	6,348	3.56%
City of Kerman	16,004	16,950	17,256	7.82%
City of Kingsburg	12,384	12,908	13,042	5.31%
City of Mendota	12,585	12,462	12,531	-0.43%
City of Orange Cove	9,617	9,453	9,516	-1.05%
City of Parlier	14,567	14,382	14,368	-1.37%
City of Reedley	24,920	25,376	25,653	2.94%
City of San Joaquin	3,698	3,620	3,616	-2.22%
City of Sanger	26,573	26,286	26,357	-0.81%
City of Selma	24,713	24,395	24,371	-1.38%
Balance of Fresno County	162,475	158,681	158,380	-2.52%
Total	1,008,654	1,010,914	1,017,431	0.87%

Data Source: State of California, Department of Finance, E-1(2024)

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 2019-2023

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	121,557	15,997	13.2%	9,040	7.4%	1,298	1.1%
City of Coalinga	13,582	1,833	13.5%	3,017	22.2%	343	2.5%
City of Firebaugh	8,301	1,023	12.3%	2,646	31.9%	234	2.8%
City of Fowler	6,881	1,610	23.4%	830	12.1%	110	1.6%
City of Fresno	534,270	64,145	12.0%	111,660	20.9%	10,332	1.9%
City of Huron	6,425	199	3.1%	2,131	33.2%	40	0.6%
City of Kerman	16,351	1,580	9.7%	4,134	25.3%	179	1.1%
City of Kingsburg	12,502	2,422	19.4%	1,045	8.4%	349	2.8%
City of Mendota	12,476	961	7.7%	3,782	30.3%	301	2.4%
City of Orange Cove	9,580	729	7.6%	3,732	39.0%	320	3.3%
City of Parlier	14,511	1,202	8.3%	4,335	29.9%	344	2.4%
City of Reedley	25,092	2,492	9.9%	4,932	19.7%	540	2.2%
City of San Joaquin	3,734	198	5.3%	1,338	35.8%	11	0.3%
City of Sanger	26,419	2,748	10.4%	3,730	14.1%	292	1.1%
City of Selma	24,348	2,960	12.2%	4,829	19.8%	686	2.8%
Balance of Fresno County	158,538	25,961	16.4%	24,536	15.5%	3,036	1.9%
Total	994,567	126,060	12.7%	185,717	18.7%	18,415	1.9%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2023 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 2019-2023

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	734	2.0%	76	0.2%	810	1.1%
5 to 17 years	7,879	7.3%	4,932	4.8%	12,811	6.1%
18 to 64 years	33,499	11.3%	34,341	11.6%	67,840	11.5%
65 years and over	23,034	40.3%	26,670	38.7%	49,704	39.4%
Total	65,146	13.1%	66,019	13.1%	131,165	13.1%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, B18101

Table 4 shows that 65,146 males, or 13.1% of the male population within Fresno County meet the definition of a person having a disability. In contrast, 66,019 females, or 13.1% of the female population within Fresno County meet this definition.

Table 5
Employment Status by Disability Status, 2023

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	25,582	37.7%	4,215	6.2%	38,043	56.1%
No disability	375,587	71.9%	33,162	6.3%	113,912	21.8%
Total	401,169	67.9%	37,377	6.3%	151,955	25.7%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C18120

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	25,582	37.7%	4,215	6.2%	38,043	56.1%
No disability	375,587	71.9%	33,162	6.3%	113,912	21.8%
Total	401,169	67.9%	37,377	6.3%	151,955	25.7%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2023 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 590,501, the data shows that there are 401,169 persons, or 67.9% of which, that are employed. Of this number, 25,582 or 37.7% have a disability, whereas 375,587, or 71.9% of those employed do not have a disability.

Of the Civilian noninstitutionalized population between the age of 18 and 64 within the labor force, 37,377, or 6.3% are unemployed. Of this number, 4,215, or 6.2% are disabled, whereas 33,162, or 6.3% are able-bodied.

Of the Civilian noninstitutionalized population between the age of 18 and 64 within the labor force, FY 2025-2026 UTN Assessment

151,955, or 25.7% are not in the labor force. Of this number, 38,043, or 56.1% are disabled, and 113,912, or 21.8% 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 2023 as 761,285 persons. Driving age is defined as people between '16-18', and '18+'.

Table 6
Population of Driving Age in Fresno County, Year 2023

Age	Population	Percent
0-15	250,867	24.8%
16-18	32,956	3.3%
18+	728,329	72.0%
Total	1,012,152	100.0%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, DP05

Between 2020 and 2022, the number of valid driver licenses in Fresno County increased from 600,899 in 2020 to 627,707 in 2022. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of driver's licenses outstanding increased to 633,935, an increase of 6,228 driver licenses outstanding, from the previous year.

Table 7
Percent of Licensed Drivers of Driving Age, Population

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Valid driver licenses	600,899	619,182	627,707	633,935
Percent of licensed drivers of driving-age population	78.9%	81.3%	81.7%	82.1%

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 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 328,895 households with an average of 1.96 vehicles per household, or around 644,634 household vehicles available. The numbers show an average household size is 3.03 individuals with 7.0% of households not having a vehicle available and 1.93 average vehicles drivers per household.

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

Label	Estimates
Households	328,895
Average household size	3.03
Percent of no vehicle available households	7.0%
Average vehicles available per household*	1.96
Average drivers per household	1.93

Data Source: United States Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, B25044, S1101, S2504

California Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver Licenses Outstanding by County

** Estimated with assumption that vehicles available for household with "5 or more vehicles available" in ACS is 5.*

Appendix B – Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Process

For the FY 2025-26 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 2025-26 UTN cycle include the online survey and virtual meetings.

New activities for the FY 2025-26 UTN cycle include sending 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 2025-26 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 January 21, 2025, and closed April 4, 2025. As of May 20, 2025, seventy-five participants left 255 responses and 115 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 34 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 follows:

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 11:00 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 1, 2025, at 11:00 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 utn2025@publicinput.com.

Voicemail

Comments were received via voicemail by calling (855) 925-2801, entering code 11041 when prompted, and then leaving their comments.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the FY 2025–2026 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment took place before the April Fresno COG Policy Board meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025, 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 January, 2025

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	6-2026	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
Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit	Clovis/Fresno County	1-2027	Caucasian
Thomas Dulin, FEOC/CTSA	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2025	Caucasian
Moses Stites, FCRTA	Fresno/Fresno County	2-2027	Hispanic
Darlene Christiansen, FAX	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2025	Caucasian

Representatives of General Public, who use Public Transit			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Yonas Paulos	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2026	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
S RTP	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

2025-26 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	December 10, 2024	\$0	Public input – 3,351 impressions.
Constant Contact Emails			
CC Email send #1	February 7, 2025	\$0	1,228 sends, with a 40.5% open rate and a 3.6% click rate (38 clicks)
CC Email resend to “non- openers”	February 11, 2025	\$0	
Other			
Hard copy flyers mailed to database	February 11, 2025	\$TBD	378 2-sided bilingual color copies, envelopes
Flyers posted at 16 Fresno County Department of Social Services facilities.	February 11, 2025	\$0	
Social Media posts (6)			Thank you for your comment. The Taxi Scrip program does not pertain to unmet transit needs (UTN). However, the program is overseen by the same agency. As a result, your comment has been forwarded to the responsible party.
Meeting agendas (publicly published): SSTAC TTC PAC Policy Board			Published to the Fresno COG website one calendar week before each meeting with notification sent to the Fresno COG email list.
Public Hearing Notices	April 30, 2025	\$998.78	English/Spanish, Fresno Bee, Sunday edition
PublicInput.com surveys		\$0	Views participants Responses comments Subscribers
Totals	–	\$998.78	

Exhibit B-1

Unmet Transit Needs Request Flyer in English

Fresno County Unmet Transit Needs Public Comments Process

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 :

Click [here](#) to take the survey in [English!](#)
Or scan the QR code to the right!



Text :

Text [Utn2025](#) to [73224](#) to take the survey

Call :

Call [\(855\) 925-2801](#) and enter “**11041**” when prompted then leave us a voicemail with your comments

Attend meetings :

Attend one of eight 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

Thursday, February 20, 2025
at 5:30 pm
Granada Commons Apartments
14570 West California Ave.
Kerman, CA 93630

City of Fresno #1

Monday, February 24, 2025
at 5:30 pm
Pinedale Community Center
Computer Lab
7170 N. San Pablo Ave.
Pinedale, CA 93650

City of Fresno #2

Tuesday, February 25, 2025
at 5:30 pm
Mosqueda Community
Center Conference Room #1
4670 E. Butler Ave.
Fresno CA 93702

City of Clovis

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
at 5:30 pm
Clovis Transit Center
785 3rd St.
Clovis, CA 93612

City of Fresno #3

Saturday, March 1, 2025
at 11:00 am
Maxie L. Parks Community Center
1802 Cesar Chavez Blvd
Fresno, CA 93706

Virtual Meeting - ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
at 11:00 am
Register in advance at:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8btr71o7SDGRH1i69ZyTew>

Rural Eastside, Fresno County

Thursday, March 6, 2025
at 5:30 pm
Fowler Magnolia Apartments
325 E. Vine St.
Fowler, CA 93625

Public Hearing

Fresno COG Policy Board
Thursday, April 24, 2025
at 5:30 pm
2035 Tulare Street, Ste. 201
Fresno, CA 93721

After registering, you'll receive a confirmation email with meeting details.

Email :

Email staff your comments at utn2025@publicinput.com

Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting.

Exhibit B-2

Unmet Transit Needs Flyer and Comments Form in Spanish

PROCESO DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS DE NECESIDADES DE TRÁNSITO NO SATISFECHAS DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO

¿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 :

Haga clic [aquí](#) para responder a la encuesta en español.
O [escanee el código QR](#) de la derecha.



Texto :

Envía [Utn2025s](#) al [73224](#) para participar en la encuesta

Deje un mensaje de correo de voz:

Llame al (855) 925-2801 e introduzca "11041" cuando se le solicite. A continuación, déjenos un mensaje de voz con sus comentarios.

Asistir a las reuniones:

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

Zona rural oeste del condado de Fresno

Jueves 20 de febrero de 2025, a las 17:30 horas
Granada Apartamentos
14570 Avenida Oeste de California,
Kermán, CA 93630

Ciudad de Fresno, No. 1

Lunes 24 de febrero de 2025 a las 17:30 horas
Laboratorio de Computación del Centro Comunitario Pinedale
7170 N. Avenida San Pablo,
Pinedale, CA 93650

Ciudad de Fresno, No. 2

Martes 25 de febrero de 2025, a las 17:30 horas
Sala de Conferencias #1 del Centro Comunitario Mosqueda
4670 E. Butler Ave.,
Fresno California 93702

Ciudad de Clovis

Miércoles 26 de febrero de 2025 a las 17:30 horas
Centro de tránsito de Clovis
785 3rd St., Clovis, CA 93612

Ciudad de Fresno, No. 3

Sábado 1 de marzo de 2025 a las 11:00 horas
Centro Comunitario Maxie L. Parks
1802 César Chávez Blvd,
Fresno, CA 93706

En línea

Martes 4 de marzo de 2025 a las 11:00 a las 11:00 horas
Puedes registrarte previamente en:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6481169271>

Después de registrarse, recibirá un correo electrónico de confirmación.

Zona rural del este del condado de Fresno

Jueves 6 de marzo de 2025, a las 17:30 horas. Magnolia Apartamentos
325 E. Vine St.,
Fowler, CA 93625

Audiencia pública

Junta Normativa de la COG de Fresno
Jueves 24 de abril de 2025 a las 17:30 horas
2035 Tulare Street, Ste. 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Correo electrónico al personal: Envíe sus comentarios a utn2025@publicinput.com

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

Exhibit B-3

Unmet Transit Needs Survey in English



Unmet Transit Needs Assessment ► Unmet Transit Needs Survey - 2025

Unmet Transit Needs Survey - 2025

Welcome!

The UTN assessment is held each year to identify unmet transit needs that are "reasonable to meet" and not already being met through existing public transit services with available funding. 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 April 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. and will be considered part of the 2025 UTN assessment.

Welcome

Step 2

Step 3

Thank you!

4. What and where are the places?

Comment

☐ Post Publicly

5. What days do you need service to the places you listed?

☐ Weekdays

☒ Weekends

☐ Both

6. What times do you need service to the locations you listed?

Comment

7. Which bus or transit system operates in the area where your suggested location is? Select all that apply

☐ Fresno Area Express (FAX)

☐ 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

Continue

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.



Encuesta sobre necesidades de transporte público insatisfechas - 2025

¡Bienvenido!

La evaluación de la UTN se lleva a cabo cada año para identificar las necesidades de transporte público no satisfechas que son "razonables de satisfacer" y que aún no se están satisfaciendo a través de los servicios de transporte público existentes con fondos disponibles. Los aportes y comentarios del público son una parte fundamental del proceso de la UTN. En asociación con los proveedores de transporte público locales, Fresno COG está recopilando comentarios públicos sobre las necesidades de transporte público no satisfechas para el condado de Fresno. Todos los comentarios deben presentarse antes del 4 de abril de 2025 a las 5:00 p. m. y se considerarán parte de la evaluación de la UTN de 2025.

Bienvenido

Paso 2

Paso 3

¡Gracias!

4. ¿Qué son y dónde están los lugares?

Comentario

☐ Publicar públicamente

5. ¿Qué días necesita servicio en los lugares que enumeraste?

☐ Días laborables

☒ fines de semana

☐ Ambos

6. ¿A qué horas necesita el servicio en las ubicaciones que indicó?

Comentario

7. ¿Qué sistema de autobús o transporte público opera en el área donde se encuentra la ubicación que sugiere? Seleccione todas las opciones que correspondan

☒ Servicio de fax exprés del área de Fresno (FAX)

☐ Handy Ride, el servicio de paratransito de la ciudad de Fresno

☐ Línea de escenarios de Clovis

☐ Clovis Round-Up, el servicio de paratransito de la ciudad de Clovis

☐ Agencia de Tránsito Rural del Condado de Fresno (FCRTA)

☐ Un proveedor de agencia de servicios sociales

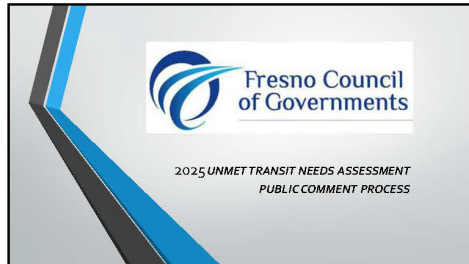
Continuar

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.

3/11/2025



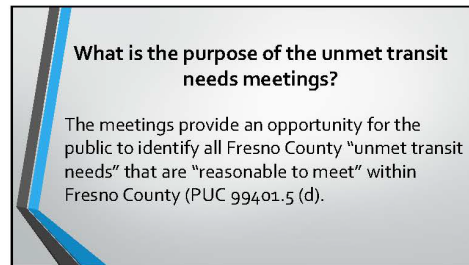
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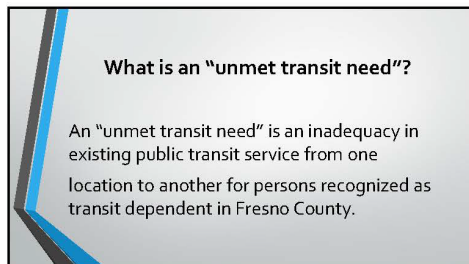
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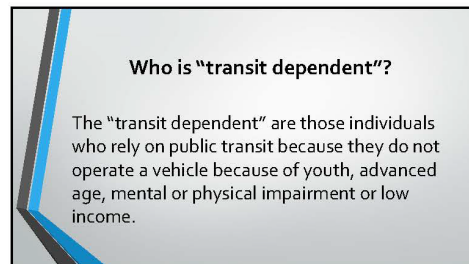
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4



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/utm2025
2. Attend a public outreach meeting and/or public hearing and speak with transit agency representatives. See <https://publicinput.com/unmet-transit-needs/#tab-7/6sec> for dates and times.
3. Send an email in English or Spanish:
utm2025@publicinput.com
4. Call and leave a voicemail of your comments at (855) 925-2801, project code: "11041"
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 2025-2026

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 2025-2026 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 include 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 B-7

Unmet Transit Needs Social Media Posts in English and Spanish, FY 2025-2026

Fresno COG prepared and published several social media posts in English and Spanish for its social media properties and those of Fresno Area Express and Clovis Transit.

<p>FRESNO COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS</p> <p>Tell us about your unmet public transit needs!</p> <p>TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY!</p> 	<p>FRESNO COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS</p> <p>Tell us about your unmet public transit needs!</p> <p>Participate in the online survey!</p> <p>Text your comments!</p> <p>Call with your comments!</p> <p>Attend one of our 8 public meetings : Six in-person, one virtual, and a public hearing where you can interact with transit providers and staff directly.</p> <p>Email your comments!</p> 
<p>FRESNO COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS</p> <p>Tell us about your unmet public transit needs!</p> <p>TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY!</p>  	<p>FRESNO COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS</p> <p>Tell us about your unmet public transit needs!</p> <p>CALL OR TEXT YOUR COMMENTS!</p> 
<p>FRESNO COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS</p> <p>Tell us about your unmet public transit needs!</p> <p>EMAIL YOUR COMMENTS!</p> 	<p>FRESNO COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS</p> <p>Tell us about your unmet public transit needs!</p> <p>ATTEND ONE OF OUR 8 PUBLIC MEETINGS!</p> 

**PROCESO DE NECESIDADES
DE TRÁNSITO INSATISFECHAS
DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO**

¡Cuéntenos sobre sus
necesidades de tránsito
insatisfechas!

**TOMA NUESTRO
ENCUESTA EN LÍNEA!**



**PROCESO DE NECESIDADES
DE TRÁNSITO INSATISFECHAS
DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO**

¡Cuéntenos sobre sus
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insatisfechas!

**TOMA NUESTRO
ENCUESTA EN LÍNEA!**



**PROCESO DE NECESIDADES
DE TRÁNSITO INSATISFECHAS
DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO**

¡Cuéntenos sobre sus
necesidades de tránsito
insatisfechas!

**LLAMA O MENSAJE DE TEXTO
¡TUS COMENTARIOS!**



**PROCESO DE NECESIDADES
DE TRÁNSITO INSATISFECHAS
DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO**

¡Cuéntenos sobre sus
necesidades de tránsito
insatisfechas!

**CORREO ELECTRÓNICO
¡TUS COMENTARIOS!**



**PROCESO DE NECESIDADES
DE TRÁNSITO INSATISFECHAS
DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO**

¡Cuéntenos sobre sus
necesidades de tránsito
insatisfechas!

**ASISTIR A UNO
DE NUESTRAS 8 REUNIONES PÚBLICAS!**



**PROCESO DE NECESIDADES
DE TRÁNSITO INSATISFECHAS
DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO**

Háblenos de sus
necesidades de transporte
público insatisfechas.

¡Participe en la encuesta en línea!

¡Envía tus comentarios!

¡Llame con sus comentarios!

Asistir a las reuniones:

Seis presenciales, una virtual y una audiencia pública en las que podrá interactuar directamente con las empresas de transporte y el personal.

¡Envíe sus comentarios por correo electrónico!



Exhibit C

Public Outreach Meeting Attendance Lists, In-Person and Virtual

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #1 – RURAL WESTSIDE FRESNO COUNTY, KERMAN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025, 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
Eunice Gomez	Modesto	
Bethany Berube	Clovis	
Thomas Dulin	Fresno	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #2 – CITY OF FRESNO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, 5:30 PM Pinedale Community Center Computer Center 7170 N. San Pablo Ave., Pinedale, CA 93650		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	FCOG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Moses Stites	FCRTA	
Nick Chin	Clovis Transit	
Drew Wilson	FAX	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #3 – CITY OF FRESNO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025, 5:30 PM Mosqueda Community Center 4670 E. Butler Ave., Fresno CA 93702		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Yonas Paulos	Veteran Activist	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #4 – CITY OF CLOVIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025, 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
Drew Wilson	FAX	
Bethany Berube	Clovis Transit	
Nick Chin	Clovis Transit	
Janelle Del Campo	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING #5 – CITY OF FRESNO SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025, at 11:00 AM Maxie L. Parks Community Center 1802 E. California Ave, Fresno CA		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Yonas Paulos	Veterans Activist	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS VIRTUAL MEETING #1 TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025, at 11:00 AM Online on ZOOM		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	Fresno COG and FAX	(559) 621-1532
Denise Flores	FCOG	
Jayson Martinez	Carpenter's Union	
Yonas Paulos	Veteran's Advocate	
Lorena Mendibles	Caltrans, District 6	
David Huff	Caltrans, District 6	
Bob McCloskey	Transit Rider and foothills resident	
Linda Tachin	Transit Rider and foothills resident	
Nick Chin	Clovis Transit	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN-PERSON MEETING # – 6 RURAL EASTSIDE FRESNO COUNTY, CITY OF FOWLER THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025, 5:30 PM Fowler Magnolia Apartments 325 E. Vine Street, Fowler, CA 93625		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Harold Sobrado	FCOG and FAX	
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 273-7021
Nick Chin	Clovis Transit	
Elsie Aguirre	Reedley	
Marcella McIntosh	Reedley	
James Kirkman	Reedley	
Ermelinda Maldonado	Reedley	
Dominique McCamai	Reedley	

Exhibit D-1

Public Noticing of the FY 2025-2026 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Public Hearing Fresno Bee in English and Receipt

Job Details	Schedule for ad number IPL02301050
Order Number:	Wed Apr 30, 2025
IPL0230105	The Fresno Bee Print Publication
Classification:	All.Zones.
Legals & Public Notices	<hr/> PUBLIC NOTICE <hr/>
Package:	Public Notice
FRS - Legal Ads	The Fresno Council of Governments (COG) will hold a public annual Unmet Transit Needs Process beginning at 5:30 p.m. on 29, 2025, at the Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia room, 2 Suite 201 Fresno, California.
Order Cost:	The Fresno COG Policy Board will take comments at the Unmet public hearing on public transportation needs within the Fresno that are reasonable to meet during the 2025-26 fiscal year. In public hearing, COG conducted outreach meetings througho
\$471.38	Transit agencies involved in this process include Fresno Area E
Referral Code:	County Rural Transit Agency, Clovis Transit, and the Fresno Ecor
FCOG - FY2024-25	nities Commission. For Additional information, please visit www.fr
UTNA	contact Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express at (559) 621-1532.
Account Details	Individuals with disability may call Fresno COG (with 3-working
FRESNO COUNCIL	notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate in the
OF	Translation services are available (with 3-working-day advance n
GOVERNMENTS IP	ipants speaking any language with available translation services.
2035 TULARE ST,	/s/ ROBERT PHIPPS, Executive Director Fresno Council of Gover
STE 201	IPL0230105
FRESNO, CA 93722	Apr 30 2025
559-233-4148	
bthomas@fresnocog.org	
FRESNO COUNCIL	
OF	
GOVERNMENTS	

Exhibit D-2

Public Noticing of the FY 2025-2026 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Public Hearing Fresno Bee in Spanish and Receipt

Job Details	Schedule for ad number IPL02301060
Order Number:	Wed Apr 30, 2025
IPL0230106	The Fresno Bee Print Publication
Classification:	All.Zones.
Legals & Public Notices	<hr/> PUBLIC NOTICE <hr/>
Package:	NOTICIA PUBLICA
FRS - Legal Ads	NOTICIA PÚBLICA
Order Cost:	El Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno llevará a cabo una audiencia
\$526.78	el Proceso Anual de Necesidades do Tránsito No Cumplidas d
Referral Code:	a las 5:30 p.m. el Jueves, 29 de mayo del 2025 en el Salón Se
Spanish FCOG -	Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fre
FY2024-25 UTNA	La Junta de Políticas de Fresno COG tomará comentarios en
Account Details	público en la región del Condada do Fresno que sean razonable
FRESNO COUNCIL	durante el año fiscal 2025-26. Además de esta audiencia públic
OF	a llevado a cabo reuniones de alcance en todo el condado. La
GOVERNMENTS IP	tránsito involucradas en este proceso incluyen Fresno Area Expr
2035 TULARE ST,	de Tránsito Rural de Fresno, Tránsito de Clovis, y la Comisión de
STE 201	Económicas de Fresno. Para obtener información adicional, v
FRESNO, CA 93722	nocog.org o comuníquese con Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Exp
559-233-4148	(559) 621-1532.
bthomas@fresnocog.org	Las personas con discapacidades pueden llamar a Fresno
FRESNO COUNCIL	preaviso de 3 días laborables) para solicitar las ayudas auxilia
OF	para participar en la audiencia pública. Los servicios de traduc
GOVERNMENTS	ponibles (con un preaviso de 3 días laborables) a los participan
	cualquier idioma con los servicios de traducción profesional y d
	/s/ ROBERT PHIPPS, Director Ejecutivo Consejo de Gobiernos d
	IPL0230106
	Apr 30 2025