

August 1, 2019

Elisabeth Thompson, Executive Director  
Common Grounds  
80 Ridge Rd, Ste A  
Sutter Creek, Ca 95685

**Re: Provision of Senior transportation services in Tuolumne County**

Ms. Thompson,

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council and Transit Agency are pleased to demonstrate our support of increased Senior transportation services in Tuolumne County, especially those that go above and beyond the services currently be offered, through a letter of support.

We are aware that Common Grounds Senior Services was recently awarded the Area 12 on Aging 3B transportation program funds to deliver approximately 2500 rides to Tuolumne County Seniors. This is an important service and we are thankful that Tuolumne County has a contractor to provide this vital service.

As the operator of Tuolumne County Transit (TCT), we understand the multitude of transportation needs that exist in our communities. Tuolumne County has a disproportionate number of Seniors, Veterans and individuals with disabilities in our region. Tuolumne County Transit offers fixed route and specialized transportation options to serve these individuals and many others who are accessing a variety of destinations locally.

Currently, Tuolumne County Transit does not offer any transportation services that operate outside of Tuolumne County. As the regional transportation planning agency, we have received requests for more transportation services, increased public transit and service out of the county. Unfortunately, to date, TCT has not been able to meet all of this demand.

Common Grounds application to increase and expand its transportation services in Tuolumne County is seen as a desirable and necessary addition to the transportation services that are being provided through a myriad of different programs. Seniors, Veterans and those with disabilities are particularly at-risk populations that need out of county transportation and increased opportunities to travel to local destinations.

Common Grounds is already operating services in Calaveras and Amador counties which are located north of Tuolumne. This is seen as an advantage, as the Agency is aware of the difficulties in operating in the foothills—the rural nature of the communities, seasonal weather extremes, tight-nit relationships and distance from many major medical facilities, shopping and other amenities.

Common Grounds is an important partner within the community to help collaboratively provide transportation trips, especially to our most vulnerable populations. The TCTC/TCTA is already supporting the efforts of Common Grounds by providing two parking locations at our transit facility. This allows more resources to be devoted to actual hours with passengers in route to destinations, cutting down significantly on travel time to and from the trip start/end. The Transportation Council and Transit Agency looks forward to your successful application and collaboration with yourself and Ms. Toepel to enhance the transportation landscape in Tuolumne County.

Respectfully,

Michael Ayala  
Chair, TCTC/TCTA