



# **Tuolumne County Transportation Council**

## **Unmet Transit Needs Findings Report Fiscal Year 2017/18**

Adopted:  
January 11, 2017

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## **Introduction**

The California Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires an annual assessment of regional transit needs prior to making any allocation of TDA funds for projects not directly benefiting public transportation. The assessment requires the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, as the regional transportation planning agency, to:

- Consult with the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC).
- Identify the transit needs of the jurisdiction which have been considered as part of the transportation planning process.
- Identify the unmet transit needs of the jurisdiction and those needs that are reasonable to meet.
- Conduct at least one public hearing for the purpose of soliciting comments on the unmet transit needs that may exist within the jurisdiction and that might be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services.
- Adopt by resolution a finding for the jurisdiction, after consideration of all available information that:
  - There are no unmet transit needs;
  - There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; or
  - There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

If the TCTC adopts a finding that there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet, then the unmet transit needs shall be funded before any allocation is made for streets and roads purposes.

The purpose of this report is to document the fulfillment of the above requirements. The Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the Tuolumne County Region is the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC). The current membership rosters for the Tuolumne County Transportation Council and their Social Services Transportation Advisory Council are included on the following page.

## **Committee Membership Rosters**

### **Tuolumne County Transportation Council**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Michael Ayala	At-Large, Chair	Community-at-Large	
Connie Williams	City Council	City of Sonora	
John Gray	County Supervisor	District 4	
Evan Royce	County Supervisor, Vice Chair	District 3	Randy Hanvelt, D2
George Segarini	City Council	City of Sonora	

### **Social Services Transportation Advisory Council**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Bill Tracey	Chairperson	Social Service provider for persons of limited means
Doreen Schmidt	Vice Chair	Social Service provider for persons of limited means
	Member	Social Service provider for persons with Disabilities
Michael Pierce	Member	Social Service provider for persons with Disabilities
	Member	Representing transit users who are 60 years of age or older
	Member	Representing transit users who have a disability
Vickie Garrett	Member	Social Service provider for Seniors
	Member	Social Service provider for Seniors
Cathy Metcalfe	Member	Local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency, Storer
James Grinnell	Member	At-Large member
John Schultz	Member	At-Large member

## **System Background**

The Regional Public Transportation System, Tuolumne County Transit, was established under the Federal Section 147 grant in December 1976. Tuolumne County Transit is managed and operated by a private transportation service provider through an agreement with the Tuolumne County Transit Agency (TCTA).

Tuolumne County Transit is funded primarily by the California Transportation Development Act (TDA) legislation which created two funding streams, Local Transportation Funds (Sales Tax) and State Transit Assistance Funds (Fuel Tax). Funding also comes through the Federal Transit Administration, charter revenue, and farebox collections. TDA funds are collected by the State and returned to the TCTC, who then allocates the funds to the claimants, the County of Tuolumne and the City of Sonora. Both the County and the City contribute funds to provide public transportation services in the Tuolumne County Region.

## **Tuolumne County Transit Services**

Tuolumne County Transit serves the communities of Sonora, Columbia, Jamestown, Tuolumne, Twain Harte, Mi-Wuk Village, Sugar Pine, Sierra Village. Services include both fixed route and demand response (dial-a-ride) services.

Tuolumne County Transit Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride Services: Regular transit services provided to seniors, persons with disabilities and the general public within a designated service area. These services are generally available Monday through Friday, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Saturday Dial-A-Ride Service is available to the general public and operates between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Tuolumne County Transit is in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons with disabilities have an opportunity to receive ADA certification from Tuolumne County Transit and, thereby, receive priority scheduling for the Dial-A-Ride Services over other patrons, as described in the DAR Policies. Additionally, all Tuolumne County Transit vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

## **Service Performance**

Tuolumne County's Transit System is evaluated on a consistent basis by Tuolumne County Transit Agency and Storer Transportation staff. Specific performance indicators, as described in Section 99246 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), are monitored monthly and reported to the transportation staff and TCTC members and public meetings on a regular basis.

## **Farebox Recovery Ratio**

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code 99268 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), the ratio of fare revenues to operating cost shall be at least ten percent (10%). The following table shows a comparison of farebox recovery ratios for Tuolumne County Transit services.

	Year Average			
	FY12/13	FY13/14	FY14/15	FY15/16
General Services*	12.2%	10.3%	10.3%	8.9%
Specialized Services**	12.1%	11.0%	9.3%	12.8%

\* General Services include Fixed Routes and SkiBUS

\*\* Specialized Services include all demand response services

## **Annual Unmet Transit Needs Hearing**

The Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing was held at the regular Tuolumne County Transportation Council meeting of September 14, 2016.

## **Existing Social Service Transportation**

During the development of the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan, the consultant developed a comprehensive inventory of Social Service agencies as well as other transportation providers in the Tuolumne County Region.

Currently, the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA), Area 12 Agency on Aging, County Departments of Social Services and Behavioral Health, Kingsview, Mother Lode Job Training, Sierra Senior Providers, Probation- Day Reporting Center, Interfaith and Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) purchase tickets and/or passes from Tuolumne County Transit for their program participants to utilize the Tuolumne County Transit services.

Representatives from local social service agencies are encouraged to participate on the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). Currently, WATCH Resources, Sierra Senior Providers and Area 12 Agency on Aging have representatives on the SSTAC. The Transit Contractor also provides representation on the SSTAC from the General Manager and the Safety Officer.

## **Social Service Transportation Coordination**

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) provides broad representation of social service and transit providers representing the elderly, disabled and persons of limited means, Section 99238, of the TDA, requires the following representation on the SSTAC:

- One representative of potential transit users who are 60 year of age or older.
- One representative of potential transit users who have a disability.
- Two representatives of a local social service provider for seniors, including one representative who provides transportation.
- Two representatives of local social service providers for persons with disabilities, including one representative of a social service transportation provider, if one exists.
- One representative of a local social service provider for persons of limited means.
- Two representatives from the local consolidated transportation service agency, if one exists, including one representative from an operator, if one exists.

The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council met on October 21, 2016 to review the Unmet Transit Needs requests and advise TCTC staff. At this meeting the SSTAC discussed the requests and agreed that none of them met the established criteria for making a finding of an unmet transit need.

- To annually participate in the identification of transit needs in the Tuolumne County Region, including unmet transit needs that may exist and may be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services;
- To annually review and recommend action by the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, which finds by resolution that, a) there are no unmet transit needs, b) there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, or c) there are unmet transit needs including needs that are reasonable to meet; and
- To advise the Tuolumne County Transportation Council on any other major transit issues.

## **Annual Assessment**

Along with input from the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, staff utilizes information in the most current Transit Development Plan to assist in identifying the transit needs of the jurisdiction. Transit systems are evaluated and improved through a Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP is the guiding document for transit services and future expansion of service for a five year period.

Tuolumne County Transit is a small, rural public transit system that is designed to serve individuals who are likely to be transit dependent (as defined by the Transportation Development Act). Rural transit is different than large urban transit systems where traffic congestion, high cost and inconvenient parking make transit attractive to many choice riders.

The overall goal of Tuolumne County Transit is to provide services that have the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people. Equity is an important concern in any public transit operation whose funding base draws on the tax dollar. However, this must be balanced against the poor cost-effectiveness of running underutilized services. The Sonora, Columbia and Jamestown routes are considered by the TDP to be the “core” services.

The public outreach process for the September 14, 2015 Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing included a Public Notice in the local newspaper, postings on Tuolumne County Transit buses, posting on the TCTA website, and distribution of a Request for Comment Form through local agencies such as Area 12 Area Agency on Aging, Sierra Senior Providers, Interfaith and others. In addition, people were encouraged to submit comments in writing, by email or phone call if they were not able to attend the Hearing. Free transportation to the public hearing was offered to those who had no other means to attend.

## **Unmet Transit Needs Definitions**

Through Resolution 515-15, the TCTC readopted definitions of “Unmet Transit Needs” and criteria for “Unmet Transit Needs that are Reasonable to Meet.” A copy of this Resolution is included in the Appendix. These definitions and criteria are utilized to determine the unmet transit needs findings each year.

It should be noted that, if supporting information and appropriate documentation is not presented or readily available, unmet transit needs are generally considered not reasonable to meet at this time, and are usually deferred for further study.

## **Unmet Transit Needs—Requests Received**

*The determinations made below are based upon the unmet transit needs definitions and reasonable to meet criteria adopted by the Tuolumne County Transportation Council in Resolution 515-15.*

## **Requests & Findings**

### **1. Tuolumne County Transit Service from Groveland to Sonora, once a week.**

Tuolumne County Transit previously offered a weekly route to Groveland on Tuesday for many years. This service regularly fell below the 10% farebox recovery ratio mandated by the Transportation Development Act, and only served a handful of the community's residents. This service was replaced by a volunteer driver reimbursement program called Tuolumne Trip.

*Determination: This is not an unmet transit need*

**2. Additional Fixed Route bus stop locations (Route 6), near Meadowbrook, Alder or Brook drives and fixed route services on Saturday and Sunday**

Route 6 is an under-performing route that the Transit Agency recently took action to eliminate. In its place general public dial-a-ride will be provided. This will allow Tuolumne County Transit to serve the streets listed above, which are found in the Phoenix Lake area. Currently, there is general public Dial-a-Ride offered on Saturday's serving the identified area. Service on Sunday has proven to be problematic from a farebox recovery ratio standpoint.

*Determination: This is not an unmet transit need*

**3. Provide larger seats on buses for tall individuals**

Tuolumne County Transit strives to provide buses that are safe, functional and comfortable. The bench seats provided in two of the Trolley's are unique in the fleet. If future trolley's are outfitted with this type of seating, the distance between benches will be increased to accommodate our passengers who will benefit from more space.

*Determination: This is not an unmet transit need*

**Finding Regarding Public Testimony for Transit Service Improvements**

Tuolumne County Transit strives to respond to the needs of the community and the system ridership. Neither of the two requests received are unmet transit needs pursuant to the adopted criteria.

S:\\_TCTC\\_PL-020520 Unmet Transit Needs Annual Process\FY16\2014.09.12, Draft Unmet Transit Needs Findings Report.docx.doc

# Appendix

**Proof of Publication**

# Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

I, **Stacy Titus**, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of

## The Union Democrat

a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Sonora, County of Tuolumne, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Tuolumne, State of California, under the date of March 21, 1952, case number 7594; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

**Acct Name:** TUO CO TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

**Legal Description:** PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) would like to announce that the ann

08/09/2016

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

Dated at Sonora, California, this 9 day of August, 2016.

  
Signature

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) would like to announce that the annual Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing will take place on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Chambers of the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors located in downtown Sonora at 2 South Green Street on the fourth floor of the County Administration Building. The purpose of the Hearing is to solicit comments on any unmet transit needs that may exist within Tuolumne County that might be reasonable to meet by establishing new specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services. All interested persons are invited to attend and participate. The criteria for determining an unmet transit need and whether it is reasonable to meet is established by the California Transportation Development Act and the TCTC. For information on criteria pertaining to unmet transit needs, please contact Mr. Darin Grossi, Executive Director of Transportation, at 209-533-5603. Transportation may be provided to those persons with no other way to access the hearing. If you need transportation, please call 532-0404 no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 9, 2016.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, your input is still desired. Please send written comments to the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, 2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370; or [TransCouncil.IN@Tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](mailto:TransCouncil.IN@Tuolumnecounty.ca.gov) by: August 26, 2016.

Publication Date: August 9, 2016  
The Union Democrat, Sonora, CA 95370

### AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Filed \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

From the Office of

Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

In the \_\_\_\_\_ Court of the

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
for the  
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

## Service Requests

### REQUEST for PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Tuolumne County Transportation Council

[www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org](http://www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org)

[www.tuolumnecountytransit.com](http://www.tuolumnecountytransit.com)

Comments will be accepted at any Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing  
Or by Mail, Telephone, or Email

• Mail 2 South Green St. Sonora, CA 95370

• Telephone (209) 533-5603

• E-mail [transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](mailto:transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

Date: 9/1/16

Name: Julie MeVicker

Address: PO Box 323 Groveland, Ca. 95321

Telephone: 209 202-9598 Email: juliemevicker60@gmail.com

Please provide any comments and/or suggestions regarding the following topics:

☒ General transportation services

☒ Specialized transportation services

• Transit accessibility; i.e. bus stops, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, park and-ride

*my request is for a bus to go to & from  
Groveland once a week at least. There are  
many seniors in the area. There exists a  
volunteer transportation service running  
out of "The Little House" which is  
run by South Side Seniors.*

Please be specific in your request, by providing destinations by name when possible (Columbia College, Sonora Regional Medical Center, etc), along with days (MWF, daily, etc) and times.

☐ I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee. ☐ I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.

Please place contact information above if you select one of these boxes

Thank You.

## REQUEST for PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

**Tuolumne County Transportation Council**

Comments will be accepted at any Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing  
Or by Mail, Telephone, or Email

[www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org](http://www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org)

• Mail 2 South Green St. Sonora, CA 95370

[www.tuolumnecountytransit.com](http://www.tuolumnecountytransit.com)

• Telephone (209) 533-5603

• E-mail [transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](mailto:transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

Date:

8/11/16

Name:

Donald Mc Donald

Address:

20400 Brook Dr

Telephone:

209 532 5942

Email:

donald.mcdonald@comcast.net

Please provide any comments and/or suggestions regarding the following topics:

- General transportation services
- Specialized transportation services ☒
- Transit accessibility; i.e. bus stops, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, park and-ride

I would like to see  
more fixed RT locations  
near Mercedbrook  
on Miller + Brook

Please be specific in your request, by providing destinations by name when possible (Columbia College, Sonora Regional Medical Center, etc), along with days (MWF, daily, etc) and times.

Daily + start near  
fixed RT rides  
on Sat + Sun

☐ I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee.

☒ I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.

Please place contact information above if you select one of these boxes

**Thank You.**

TYLER

## REQUEST for PUBLIC COMMENTS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Tuolumne County Transportation Council

Comments will be accepted at any Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing  
Or by Mail, Telephone, or Email

[www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org](http://www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org)

• Mail 2 South Green St. Sonora, CA 95370

[www.tuolumnecountytransit.com](http://www.tuolumnecountytransit.com)

• Telephone (209) 533-5603

• E-mail [transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](mailto:transcouncil.in@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

Date:

8/29/16

Name:

SARAH LONG

Address:

19499 Hess Ave Apt 106 Sonora CA

Telephone:

588-9141

Email:

none

Please provide any comments and/or suggestions regarding the following topics:

• General transportation services

• Specialized transportation services

• Transit accessibility; i.e. bus stops, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, park and-ride

Please could we have some larger seats for tall people. If I sit in the back, which I always do, since I come up the back lift, I can barely get my knees in the space in front of the seats. That means I need help to rise.

Thanks, for  
much good work in  
a much needed service!

DS

I use the Dial-a-Ride,  
since I am a disabled senior.

☐ I am interested in participating on a transit advisory committee.

☐ I would appreciate a follow-up to my comments.

Please place contact information above if you select one of these boxes

Thank You.