

Attachment 1
Draft Unmet Transit/Paratransit Needs and Proposed Actions

May 2004

The following unmet paratransit/transit needs and proposed actions have been identified by the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee as well as the community and will be submitted to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission for their adoption. These unmet needs will be a focus for activity for the E/D TAC and will be forwarded to the Commission for consideration in the Paratransit Task Force and the sales tax Expenditure plan (not in priority order):

- Shortage of programs and operating funds for 'same day' medical trips on paratransit.
- Shortage of volunteer drivers in Santa Cruz County including for the Volunteer Center Transportation Program and the American Red Cross out-of-county medical ride program, particularly in south county.
- Expanded publicity necessary about existing specialized transportation services including ADA paratransit, non-ADA paratransit, Medi-Cal rides and mobility training for people to use regular fixed route buses.
- Lack of paratransit and accessible transit connections with neighboring counties — including Monterey (Pajaro), San Benito, Santa Clara and other points north.
- Shortage of affordable special care trips and gurney vehicles for medically fragile individuals and those needing “bed to bed” transportation.
- Shortage of transportation services for low-income children and their families, including a lack of transportation for people transitioning from welfare to work.
- Current shortage of specialized transportation rides throughout the community due to funding constraints.
- Shortage of projected funding for ADA and non-ADA Paratransit to meet the needs of the senior population expected to increase over the next 15 to 30 years.
- Shortage of projected funding to the Transit District for fixed route and ADA Paratransit to meet the needs of the senior and disabled population expected to increase over the next 15 to 30 years.

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- Lack of specialized transportation for areas outside the ADA Paratransit service area
- Shortage of availability of Taxi Scrip.
- Need to prioritize bus shelter replacement based on high usage by seniors and people with disabilities.
- Additional transportation needed for the Watsonville Senior Center.
- Need for coordinated and seamless-to-the-public system of specialized transportation with central information point.
- Lack of safe travel paths between senior and/or disabled living areas and bus stops (example: Pleasant Care facility).
- Need for the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency to acquire an improved operations and maintenance facility.
- Ongoing attempts should be made to provide ADA Paratransit certification at group facilities.
- Continued need for transit to unserved housing areas in south county (examples: Stonecreek Apartments in downtown Watsonville and the San Andreas Migrant Labor Camp).

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