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Santa Cruz Metropolitan
Transit District



Attachment 2

May 6, 2003

Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1221 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, California, 95060

Dear Ms. ~~Wilshusen~~, *Linda*

On May 1, 2003 the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) held a Public Hearing regarding unmet para transit and transit needs. It is my understanding that the Public Hearing on Unmet Needs was held pursuant to the provisions of the State Transportation Development Act. A part of the discussion that took place among the members of Commission related to the unmet needs on the fixed route system. As you know METRO cut 10% of the fixed route service hours last year and is in the process of cutting an additional 5% this year. These service cuts have undoubtedly created unmet needs on the fixed route system. I personally believe that there were a number of gaps and unmet needs on the fixed route system prior to the service reductions and that we have added to that inventory.

The current assessment of unmet needs is focused on the para transit system and those fixed routes needs of Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities. The hearings announcement that is attached to this letter reflects that emphasis.

I believe that the focused outreach to Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities is both necessary and appropriate. I do not think that efforts in this area should be diminished. The purpose of this letter is to explore options for gaining public comments regarding unmet fixed routes needs for the TDA Hearing next year. Even though METRO currently has severe financial limitations I believe there will be a time when we are able to expand service again. An enhanced unmet needs process could help us develop service expansion strategies that could be implemented when funding becomes available.

I would appreciate your thoughts on how SCCRTC Staff Members and METRO Staff Members might work together, using the TDA requirement as a framework, to develop a comprehensive needs assessment for consideration by both Policy Boards next year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leslie R. White
Leslie R. White
General Manager

Cc: Mark Dorfman



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