

AGENDA: September 2, 2004

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
RE: Unmet Paratransit/Transit Needs Public Hearing – 9:30 am

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Hold this public hearing to invite testimony on the draft Unmet Paratransit/Transit Needs list (Attachment 1) developed from a variety of sources;
 2. Approve a final list of Unmet Paratransit/Transit Needs;
 3. Direct staff to work with the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee, the Paratransit Coordination Task Force and other entities to address the identified unmet needs; and
 4. Consider these Unmet Needs in future planning and funding decisions.
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BACKGROUND

As required by the state's Transportation Development Act (TDA) implemented in 1972, one quarter cent of the 7 ¼ cent statewide sales tax is apportioned to transportation planning agencies. Apportionment is based on population and miles of country roads according to the 1970 census. A list of unmet paratransit/transit needs is developed each year by the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/D TAC) to assist the transportation planning agency in understanding the specialized transportation needs of the community. Also required is an annual public hearing to solicit additional comments from the public about unmet paratransit/transit needs. Because none of the TDA dollars in Santa Cruz County go toward streets and roads, the process does not need to make determinations about whether the deficiencies in the existing system are reasonable to meet.

Ads were placed in newspapers announcing this public hearing and press releases were sent to local media.

DISCUSSION

The first draft of Unmet Transit/Paratransit Needs was included as an information item in the May agenda packet for the RTC. Since that time new information was made available. The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District submitted a list of Unmet Transit Needs that was approved at its July 23 Board meeting (Attachment 2). Included are the Metro Advisory Committee and the Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum Unmet Needs lists.

The attached draft list of Unmet Transit/Paratransit Needs (Attachment 1) includes these four sources of input. At their August meeting, the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee approved their recommendations for Unmet Needs which are highlighted with asterisks. This list was presented to the August Paratransit Coordination Task Force and there were no additions/amendments.

Staff will work with the E/D TAC, Paratransit Coordination Task Force and related entities to address the Unmet Needs, and consider including appropriate projects in the Regional Transportation Plan and the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's plans. Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission keep these needs in mind when making funding decisions.

SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission hold this public hearing to receive testimony on the draft list of Unmet Transit/Paratransit Needs, direct staff to work with related entities to address the needs and to commit future funds to specialized transportation, when possible.

- Attachments:
1. Draft Unmet Transit/Paratransit Needs
 2. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Unmet Transit Needs, including the Metro Advisory Committee Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum Unmet Transit Needs

Prepared by Karena Pushnik