

Attachment 1
Draft Unmet Paratransit/Transit Needs
August 2004

The following unmet paratransit/transit needs and proposed actions have been identified by the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/D TAC), the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Metro) and its two advisory committees, the Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum (MASTF). The source is indicated. (Needs are not in priority order, E/D TAC recommendations are shown with an asterisk):*

General

- * 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. (E/D TAC)
- * Lack of paratransit and accessible transit connections with neighboring counties — including Monterey (Pajaro), San Benito, Santa Clara and other points north. (E/D TAC)
- * Shortage of transportation services for low-income children and their families, including a lack of transportation for people transitioning from welfare to work. (E/D TAC)
- * 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. (E/D TAC)
- * Lack of safe travel paths between senior and/or disabled living areas and bus stops (examples: Capitola Road and side streets, trailer park at Antionelli, Pleasant Care facility). (E/D TAC)

Paratransit/Specialized Transportation

- * Shortage of programs and operating funds for 'same day' medical trips on paratransit. (E/D TAC)
- * Shortage of programs and operating funds for 'same day' non-medical trips (E/D TAC)

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- * 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. (E/D TAC)
- * Shortage of affordable special care trips and gurney vehicles for medically fragile individuals and those needing “bed to bed” transportation. (E/D TAC)
- * Current shortage of specialized transportation rides throughout the community due to funding constraints. (E/D TAC)
- * 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. (E/D TAC)
- * Lack of specialized transportation for areas outside the ADA Paratransit service area (E/D TAC, MASTF)
- * Shortage of availability of Taxi Scrip. (E/D TAC)
- * Additional transportation needed for the Watsonville Senior Center. (E/D TAC)
- * Additional transportation needed for the Live Oak Senior Center (E/D TAC)
- * Additional transportation needed for the Highlands Senior Center (E/D TAC)
- * Need for coordinated and seamless-to-the-public system of specialized transportation with central information point. (E/D TAC)
- * Need for the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency to acquire an improved operations and maintenance facility. (E/D TAC)
- * Ongoing attempts should be made to provide ADA Paratransit certification at group facilities. (E/D TAC)

Transit

- * Need to prioritize bus shelter replacement based on high usage by seniors and people with disabilities. (E/D TAC)

- * Continued need for transit to unserved housing areas in south county (examples: Stonecreek Apartments in downtown Watsonville and the San Andreas Migrant Labor Camp). (E/D TAC)
- 15-minute frequencies and expanded window of service on Highway 17/Amtrak service (Metro, MAC)
- Extension of Highway 17/Amtrak service to UCSC at key times (Metro)
- 30-minute peak frequencies on collector and arterial routes (Metro, MAC)
- Bi-directional service on local Watsonville routes (Metro, MAC)
- Expanded service to new residential and commercial areas in Watsonville (Metro)
- Service to new Watsonville High School (Metro, MAC)
- Increased frequency of service to Scotts Valley High School (Metro)
- Expanded service/increased frequency of service for UCSC (Metro, MAC)
- East/West Express service to UCSC and Cabrillo (Metro, MAC)
- Express service between Cabrillo-Aptos campus and Cabrillo-Watsonville campus (Metro)
- Minimum frequency standard of 60 minutes (Metro)
- Express service between San Lorenzo Valley and both UCSC and Cabrillo (Metro, MAC)
- * Holiday service on all holidays (Metro, MASTF)
- Expanded service between UCSC and Westside University activity centers such as Long Marine Lab, Wrigley building offices, Texas Instruments building offices (Metro)
- Expanded window of service on major collector and arterial service (Metro, MAC)

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- Service from Santa Cruz County to Los Gatos (MAC)
- “Bona Fide” express service connecting the four transit centers in Santa Cruz County together (MAC)
- * Service to Independent Square in Watsonville (MAC)
- * Service to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville (MAC)
- Service from the UC Inn to UCSC (MAC)
- Expanded evening and late night service on major fixed routes to improve service accessibility (MAC)
- Expanded bicycle capacity and access on the fixed route system (MAC)
- Reduce the cash fare while preserving the pass charges so that the average fare using a pass is a higher percentage of the cash fare than currently exists (MAC)
- Establish a means-tested low income fare (MAC)
- * Restoration of lost fixed route service (Metro, MASTF)
- * Upgrading head-signs on buses so that all head-signs are of the same level of legibility as those most recently purchased (MASTF)
- * Bus stops and bus routing in front of all senior and disabled trip generators (MASTF)
- * More ADA compliant bus stop improvements, including benches, shelters, and lighting (MASTF)
- * Braille and raised numbers on bus signage at bus stops indicating which bus routes are being offered at each stop (MASTF)
- Expansion of Highway 17/AMTRAK Service to Watsonville (Metro)
- Bus Rapid Transit Service (Metro)
- Express routes throughout the service area (Metro)

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- Direct service to Santa Cruz on Portola (Metro)
- Fare free service to students under the age of 13 (Metro)
- Increased peak hour frequencies on routes between Watsonville and Mid-County (Metro)
- Increased service frequencies throughout the system (Metro)

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