

Attachment 2

Santa Cruz Metropolitan
Transit District



August 16, 2004

Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz California, 95060

Dear Ms. Wilshusen,

The purpose of this letter is to provide information for the Unmet Transit Needs Determination that will be considered by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) in September. Attached to this letter is a list of Unmet Transit Needs that was adopted by the METRO Board of Directors on July 23, 2004. The list of Unmet Transit Needs was developed as a result of numerous public meeting that have been held in conjunction with the service reductions that have had to be implemented by METRO over the past three years. Additionally the Board held a Public Hearing with regard to the Unmet Needs list on July 23, 2004.

I have also attached a copy of the list of Unmet Transit Needs that was adopted by the Metro Advisory Committee on July 21, 2004. Additionally please find a copy of the list entitled "Needs Assessment for the Senior and Disabled on Fixed Route and Paratransit" that was submitted to the METRO Board of Directors by the Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum (MASTF) on July 23, 2004. Both the List of Unmet Needs from MAC and the Needs Assessment list from MASTF were approved by the Board to be included as a part of the submission of needs by METRO.

I am hopeful that the Regional Transportation Commission will consider including the items contained in the three lists attached in this letter in the overall Unmet Transit Needs Determination for Santa Cruz County. If you have any questions regarding materials attached to this letter please contact me. Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

Leslie R. White
General Manager
Santa Cruz METRO



Cc: Kanoa Dynek, Chair, MAC
Sharon Barbour, Chair, MASTF
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager

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METRO Unmet Transit Needs List

- 15-minute frequencies and expanded window of service on Highway 17/Amtrak Service.
- Extension of Highway 17/Amtrak service to UCSC at key times.
- 30-minute peak frequencies on collector and arterial routes.
- Bi-directional service on local Watsonville routes.
- Expanded service to new residential and commercial areas in Watsonville.
- Service to new Watsonville High School.
- Increased frequency of service to Scotts Valley High School.
- Increased frequency of service for UCSC.
- East/West Express service to UCSC and Cabrillo.
- Express Service between Cabrillo-Aptos Campus and Cabrillo-Watsonville Campus.
- Minimum frequency standard of 60 minutes.
- Express service between San Lorenzo Valley and both UCSC and Cabrillo.

- Holiday service on all Holidays.
- Expanded service between UCSC and Westside University activity centers such as Long Marine Lab, Wrigley Building Offices, and Texas Instruments Building Offices.
- Expanded window of service on major collector and arterial service.
- Extension of Highway 17/AMTRAK Service to Watsonville.
- Restoration of level of service hours that have been eliminated in recent service cuts.
- Bus Rapid Transit Service.
- Express routes throughout the service area.
- Direct service to Santa Cruz on Portola.
- Fare free service to students under the age of 13.
- Increased peak hour frequencies on routes between Watsonville and Mid-County.
- Increased service frequencies throughout the system.

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: July 23, 2004
To: Board of Directors
From: Metro Advisory Committee (MAC)
Subject: Unmet Service Needs

On July 21, 2004 the Members of the Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) devoted a considerable portion of the meeting discussing the unmet transit service needs in Santa Cruz County. The Members of the MAC were aware that other committees and agencies have also addressed the issue of unmet needs and therefore the list developed by the Members of the MAC was intended to reflect those items that might not be included in other lists.

Part of the operating funds that are received by METRO are proceeds from a ¼ cent sales tax that is collected in Santa Cruz County by the State of California and allocated to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC). The SCCRTC receives these sales tax funds pursuant to the Transportation Development Act (TDA). Currently METRO receives approximately \$5.3 million in annual operating funds under this program.

One of the requirements of the TDA is that the SCCRTC make an annual finding with respect to unmet transit needs. In past years this finding has been directed primarily at unmet needs for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and people having low incomes.

On July 23, 2004 the METRO Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to consider what unmet fixed route and ParaCruz needs should be transmitted to the SCCRTC for consideration. The Members of the MAC were informed by METRO Staff that the statement of unmet needs by METRO is anticipated to be more comprehensive in the future as a grant to develop a new Short Range Transit Plan has been received. The completion of the needs analysis section of the Short Range Transit Plan should provide METRO with the information necessary to present a more complete statement to the SCCRTC.

After the severe service cuts that have been implemented over the past three years the Members of the MAC feel that the level of unmet needs for fixed route service is substantial.

The purpose of this is for the MAC Membership to highlight service deficiencies to the METRO Board of Directors that should be addressed in the SCCRTC unmet needs finding.

The service needs that should be included are:(not prioritized)

- Improved frequencies and wider span of service on the Highway 17/Amtrak service.
- Implementation of 30-minute peak hour frequencies or better on all collector and arterial routes.
- Better connection of UCSC main campus to Long Marine Lab and Westside offices (old Texas Instruments Bldg).
- Service to new Watsonville High School.
- Service from Santa Cruz County to Los Gatos.
- Implementation of Improved East/West Express service to UCSC and Cabrillo College.
- Express service from the San Lorenzo Valley to UCSC and Cabrillo College.
- Direct bi-directional service in the Watsonville service area.
- "Bona Fide" express service connecting the four transit centers in Santa Cruz County together.
- Direct service between Santa Cruz and Monterey.
- Service to Independence Square in Watsonville.
- Service to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville.
- Service from the UC Inn to UCSC.
- Expanded evening and late night service on major fixed routes to improve service accessibility.
- Expanded service to UCSC to eliminate "pass-bys".
- Expand bicycle capacity and access on the fixed route system.
- 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.
- Establish a means tested low income fare.

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The outlined list of unmet service needs included in this memo is intended to compliment the lists of needs developed by other committees. The list of unmet needs was not prioritized by the MAC.

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**NEEDS ASSESSMENT
FOR THE SENIOR AND DISABLED
ON FIXED ROUTE AND PARATRANSIT**

1. Restoration of lost fixed route service.
2. Holiday Service.
3. Upgrading head-signs on buses so that all head-signs are of the same level of legibility as those most recently purchased.
4. Bus stops and bus routing in front of all senior and disabled trip generators.
5. Paratransit service outside the ADA^{mandated} service area.
6. More ADA compliant bus stop improvements, including benches, shelters, and lighting.
7. Brail and raised numerals on bus signage at bus stops indicating which bus routes are being offered at each stop.

From MASTIF

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