

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner  
**RE:** **10:00 am Public Hearing –  
2007 Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs**

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Consider public input on Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs;
  2. Adopt the Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs List for 2007 with revisions as appropriate; and
  3. Consider the list of Unmet Needs as new funding becomes available.
- 

**BACKGROUND**

Local sales taxes in the amount of ¼ cent per dollar are collected by the State of California and allocated to the region according to the Transportation Development Act (TDA). The Regional Transportation Commission allocates these funds according to formula as adopted in the agency's bylaws with the majority of funding apportioned to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, and other amounts to Community Bridges, the Volunteer Center and to local jurisdictions for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Transportation Development Act (TDA) statutes require that agencies who wish to allocate funds to local streets and roads conduct an annual Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs assessment and an extensive analysis of whether the needs are reasonable to meet. Our county's local TDA funds are not used for streets and roads; therefore, the Regional Transportation Commission does not need to perform this level of analysis. However, the process provides a useful tool to assess and prioritize the unmet transit and paratransit needs in the region. For this reason, the RTC typically conducts an unmet needs process each year.

**DISCUSSION**

Attached for the Regional Transportation Commission's consideration is the Draft List of Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs for 2007 ([Attachment 1](#)).

Public Outreach for Unmet Needs List

Efforts were made to maximize public, user and agency input into the list. A letter was distributed to over 200 community groups, senior facilities, and other stakeholders soliciting input on Unmet Transportation Needs and notifying them of the public hearing. This

notification is especially important for the social service agencies working with low income individuals, whose needs may not be covered by the agencies with representatives who generally attend the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/D TAC) meetings. A copy of the letter and the list of stakeholders are attached (Attachments 2 and 3). For recipients of the E/D TAC agenda and/or packet, as well as those people who have requested to be notified when the packet is posted on line, an email notice was sent on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> notifying them of the public hearing and providing a link to the draft unmet needs list. In addition, this public hearing was advertised in local papers.

### Development of the Unmet Needs List

As in year's past, the RTC's E/D TAC developed the first draft of the unmet specialized transportation and transit needs list for 2007 (Attachment 4) in conjunction with production of its annual report (included as a separate item on the agenda for this meeting). The E/D TAC prioritized the unmet needs using high, medium and low rankings.

The E/D TAC's draft list was forwarded to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Metro) who, in concurrence with their board and advisory committee, developed a more extensive transit- oriented list (Attachment 5). The Metro provided two opportunities for both their board and the Metro Advisory Committee to review the list culminating with board approval of the transit list at its August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Metro's list was prioritized using three levels of high, plus moderate and low rankings. In addition, the Metro board discussed the E/D TAC list from the perspective of Metro providing the services to meet the needs outlined. Based on RTC staff's understanding of the Board's discussion, the language of need number 18 was clarified and the priority of three items was upgraded. These changes are noted on the draft Unmet Needs list (Attachment 1).

Staff combined the E/D TAC and Metro list into the Draft List of Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs for 2007 (Attachment 1).

### Coordination with Other Efforts

There are other specialized transportation efforts underway that relate to the Unmet Needs. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments is the lead agency for the three-county region on the development of a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CPTP). Projects receiving federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) funds or the general project needs must be included in the plan to receive funds through federal fiscal year 2009. The purpose of the plan, according to the Caltrans Coordinated Plan template, is to develop "a unified comprehensive strategy for public transportation service delivery that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with limited incomes, lays out strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritizes services. The CPTP should maximize the programs' collective coverage by minimizing duplication of services."

For the purpose of the Coordinated Plan, SAFETEA-LU funds include the following:

- Section 5310 – Capital funds (80/20%) for specialized transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities

- Section 5316 – Jobs Access Reverse Commute for transportation services to/from training, employment and childcare services to qualified welfare and low-income recipients. Capital projects funded with 80/20% match and operating costs with a 50/50% match.
- Section 5317 – New Freedom Program for capital (80/20%) and operating (50/50%) expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the ADA that assist individuals with disabilities to access transportation services including to/from jobs and employment support services

The Unmet Needs List to be adopted by the RTC will be used to help establish needs for the projects included in the Coordinated Plan.

In addition, RTC staff and the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (Community Bridges) staff are updating the inventory of existing specialized transportation service providers. This inventory will contain information about ridership, funding, eligibility and oversight.

**Staff recommends that the Commission consider oral and written input on the Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs List and adopt the list with amendments, as appropriate.**

## **SUMMARY**

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires that regional transportation planning agencies hold an annual unmet specialized transportation and transit needs process including extensive “reasonableness” analysis for those counties who allocate TDA funds to local streets and roads. Although the RTC does not allocate funding to streets and roads, it has determined that the unmet needs process is a useful tool and each year conducts the process and holds a public hearing to solicit broad community input. The initial draft unmet needs list was developed by the E/D TAC and input was solicited from other transportation providers, community groups and relevant agencies. The Draft Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs List for 2007 is a combination of the lists prepared by the E/D TAC, Metro and other input. Staff recommends adoption of the proposed list with revisions as appropriate.

### Attachments:

1. Draft SCCRTC List of Unmet Specialized Transportation/Transit Needs for 2007
2. Letter to Community Organizations/Agencies on Unmet Needs
3. Mailing List Used to Distribute the Letter on the Unmet Needs Process
4. E/D TAC List of Unmet Needs
5. Metro List of Unmet Needs

\\Rtcserv1\Shared\RTC\TC2007\TC0907\UnmetNeeds0907.doc