

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 12, 2022

Teleconference - Remote Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jill Rexrode, Redwood Coast Seniors
Jacob King, Mendocino Transit Authority
Dawn White, MTA (Alternate)
Sheila Keys, Redwood Coast Regional Center
Richard Baker, Willits Harrah Senior Center

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rachael McDavid / Kathy Sheehy, Ukiah Senior Center
Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health

MEMBER VACANCIES

Potential “handicapped” transit user
Potential transit user at least 60 years of age

STAFF PRESENT

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Executive Director
Janet Orth, MCOG Deputy Director & CFO
James Sookne, MCOG Program Manager

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. with Zoom participants identified.

2. Public Expression. None.

3. Minutes. The meeting minutes of May 17, 2021 were provided for information. No action was taken.

6. 2022 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Program Call for Projects. This item was taken out of agenda order and addressed early. A call for projects was announced January 3. James discussed program status. A webinar workshop is expected to be scheduled by Caltrans. Title VI plans must be updated for each agency to be eligible; James can assist with the plans; it was noted MTA prepares their own. James and Jacob both can assist with 5310 applications. Applications are due March 2, to be submitted in the BlackCat online tool; a draft can be uploaded before final submittal. Templates are available for the required agency resolution. Procurement of vehicles was discussed. Jacob advised that MTA procures under a state contract or through CALACT, as the best sources. Nephele suggested sending a draft application to MCOG staff, well in advance, for review and comment.

4. Annual Review of SSTAC Membership. Nephele and Janet reviewed openings on the membership roster, noting two vacancies due to recent resignations (Rachael and Doris) and another seat (Jacob’s) due to expire in April 2022. Discussion followed on ways to advertise for volunteers, such as flyers at senior centers and on MTA busses. Appointments would be confirmed at MCOG’s February board meeting on the Consent Calendar.

Recommendation:

Upon motion by White, seconded by Rexrode, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*3 Ayes – King, White, and Rexrode; 0 Noes, 2 Absent – Keys and Baker*), the SSTAC nominated Jacob King, Mendocino Transit Authority, for reappointment as “Representative of local Consolidated Transportation Services Agency” through April 2025.

5. 2022/23 Unmet Transit Needs Workshop and Recommendation – Compile a list of Unmet Transit Needs and identify other transportation needs and potential solutions. Janet reviewed the annual process of identifying needs as detailed in her written staff report. Today’s workshop is the first step of the funding cycle for the coming fiscal year. Staff typed identified needs on a shared screen for group viewing (in lieu of white board). Discussion of unmet needs included the following.

Staff gave an update on MCOG's Mobility Solutions Feasibility Study for remote inland communities; a Request for Proposals has been issued for professional services. Discussion followed on the five areas to be addressed: Laytonville, Covelo, Brooktrails, Potter Valley, and Hopland.

MTA's list of 12 needs was available from public input at their board meetings. Jacob described needs on that list and shared screen for discussion, which focused on coastal areas.

In regard to restoring services cut during the coronavirus pandemic that were listed individually on MTA's list, it was agreed to make one listing for these on the new SSTAC list.

The developing list included:

- Service for Covelo students to/from Mendocino College
- Fixed route weekends – Fort Bragg
- Service to The Woods retirement community, Little River to Fort Bragg and back
- Resume temporary service cuts from pandemic
- Wednesday service for Ukiah Senior Center (Nephele added on their behalf)

In further discussion, Jacob reported MTA is ready to resume services and has funds, but not a sufficient workforce. Jill recommended Facebook as a recruitment platform.

The group reviewed the previous year's MTA analysis for status of ongoing needs.

Are there any "Other Recommendations?" Nephele suggested adding the transit hub, which was also on MTA's list, but did not meet the formal definition of an unmet transit need.

Richard arrived at 2:18pm and was brought up to date on #6 FTA 5310 program. He had not heard of any new needs this past year.

Five new needs were recommended for the list. It was agreed to also recommend the 12 new needs from MTA's public outreach. Janet invited additional public testimony between now and the February public hearing.

Recommendation:

Upon motion by Baker, seconded by White, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*5 Ayes – King, White, Keys, Baker, and Rexrode; 0 Noes, 2 Absent*), the SSTAC recommended submittal of the attached list of seventeen (17) Unmet Transit Needs as testimony for MCOG's public hearing and one additional recommendation to "develop a Ukiah area transit center / transit hub."

8. Miscellaneous / Information / Announcements. Richard reported that Willits Seniors will reopen the senior center January 17 with vaccination and booster required; thankfully there had been no COVID outbreaks to date; they have been extra careful given the vulnerable population served. They have received food funding from the CARES Act and Community Foundation, but have been unable to hold their usual fundraisers, so there is financial uncertainty.

Jill reported that Redwood Coast Seniors has the only center open for indoor dining, with vaccination protocols in place, also offering hot meal pickups. The thrift store is open with masks required; no outbreaks were reported so far. Discussion followed.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Submitted by Janet Orth, Deputy Director

Attached:

FY 2022/23 SSTAC recommendations



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FY 2022/23 Unmet Transit Needs
Recommended by
MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Identified at Annual SSTAC Workshop
(not in any order of priority)

January 12, 2022

Needs Identified by SSTAC:

1. Service for Mendocino College students from Covelo to and from Ukiah campus
2. Fixed route weekend service in Fort Bragg
3. Service to The Woods retirement community in Little River (MTA working on with modification to Route 60)
4. Resumption of temporary service cuts related to pandemic and staffing shortages, as feasible
5. Wednesday service for Ukiah Senior Center transportation.

Needs Identified by Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA):

1. Round trip service from Ukiah to South Coast and round trip service from Ukiah to Fort Bragg/Mendocino
2. Addition of local South Coast service Gualala to Manchester
3. Addition of transit service to Potter Valley
4. Micro transit services for the communities of Brooktrails, Potter Valley, Hopland, Covelo and Laytonville
5. Service to the towns both inland and coastal communities with possible one day per week service roundtrip (Covelo, Leggett, Westport, Comptche, etc.)
6. The Woods retirement community
7. Resumption of Route 60
8. Service to Covelo and Laytonville
9. Transit Center
10. Resume services linking inland to the coast – Ukiah to North Coast in the morning and back again in the afternoon
11. Resume pre-pandemic service to coastal communities
12. Requested weekend service in Fort Bragg on a regular basis.

TOTAL of 17 Recommended Unmet Transit Needs

Additional SSTAC Recommendations:

Develop a Ukiah area transit center / transit hub.