



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
611 I Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 444-8208
www.hcaog.net

AGENDA ITEM 7a
TAC Meeting
April 4, 2019

DATE: March 25, 2019
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: Philip Johnson, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: **FY 2019-20 Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Report of Findings**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- FY 2019-20 UTN Report of Findings
- Appendix A - Comments Matrix: Individual responses to comments

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. After receiving public comment and discussing, consider making the following motion:
"I move that the TAC support the SSTAC's recommendation to approve the FY 2019-20 Unmet Transit Needs Report of Findings."

Staff Summary:

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires that the local Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) identify the unmet transit needs within its jurisdiction and identify those needs that are reasonable to meet. As part of this process, the RTPA is required to:

- 1) Conduct at least one public hearing a year to solicit comments from the public on the possible unmet transit needs that may exist in the County, and
- 2) Present all unmet needs requests to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) for consideration and to make recommendations on requests that may be reasonable to meet.

The *SSTAC Strategic Plan* recently updated the unmet needs definitions, and suggested refined strategies to streamline reviewing, identifying, and analyzing unmet transit needs. Findings of unmet needs reasonable to meet must be satisfied by transit agencies during the upcoming fiscal year in order for those providers to use any LTF funds for streets and roads.

The public submitted 151 comments in this year's unmet needs cycle. Comments were received at City Council and Board meetings, and through email, telephone, comment cards, and social media.

The SSTAC deemed Blue Lake weekend service *partially* reasonable to meet, for Saturday only, since the Willow Creek bus (operated by Humboldt Transit Authority) currently drives by Blue Lake without stopping. The *Humboldt County Transit Development Plan 2017-2022* (TDP) also recommends a Willow Creek stop in Blue Lake (which meets one criterion defining an unmet need).

The SSTAC also deemed an additional bus stop in southwest Eureka as reasonable to meet. Eureka Transit Service's (ETS's) Gold Route in southwest Eureka currently has the longest closed-door segment, from Broadway (Highway 101) at Pound Road to McCullens Avenue, which is home to abundant retail, commercial businesses, and lodging. The City of Eureka currently spends all of its LTF funds on transit. This need would be shelved until funding becomes available.

The SSTAC deemed the remaining comments as not an unmet need, or an unmet need not reasonable to meet. The following requests received special considerations based upon the number of requests and the comment's merit: transit to Samoa and Ferndale; Eureka Sunday service; Eureka late night service; bicycle racks on the bus; coordinating the Willow Creek route with the RTS northbound on its first a.m. run; having the Willow Creek route always stop at Valley West; bus stop cleanliness and safety; and limited transit to UTN hearings.

Although the committee did decide that bike racks on buses were an operational concern (therefore, by TDA definition, not an "unmet need") they plan on submitting a letter to transit agencies requesting more bike amenities on the bus. The SSTAC will also send a letter encouraging the City of Eureka to assess Sunday service in the ongoing Line Route Feasibility Study.

SSTAC recommendations for the remaining requests are included in the comments matrix (Appendix A).