

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 21, 2019

MCOG / Dow & Associates Conference Room
367 N. State Street, Suite 208, Ukiah

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carla Meyer, Mendocino Transit Authority
Richard Baker, Willits Senior Center
Jill Rexrode, Redwood Coast Seniors
Laurie Hill, Redwood Coast Seniors
(for Charles Bush, retired, and Steve Jordan, Alt.)

MEMBERS EXCUSED/ABSENT

Marilyn DeFrange, Ukiah Senior Center
Jacob King, MTA
Sheila Keys, Redwood Coast Regional Center
Arlene Peterson, Action Network
Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT

Nephele Barrett
Janet Orth

MEMBER VACANCIES

“Potential ‘handicapped’ transit user”
“Potential transit user at least 60 years of age”
“Local social service provider for seniors that provides transportation”

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made around the table.

2. Public Expression. None.

3. Minutes of November 15, 2018. The minutes from the November meeting were included in the packet for information and reference. Due to the length of time between meetings, members had already provided comments and corrections, and the minutes had been finalized. No action was taken.

4. Review and Recommendation on MTA’s Analysis and Prioritization of 2019/20 Unmet Transit Needs. Nephele introduced the subject. Janet explained the annual process, definitions, activities to date, referring to her written staff report:

Date	Meeting / Body	Action / Result
Nov. 15, 2018	SSTAC workshop	List of 10 needs submitted to MCOG for public hearing
Dec. 3, 2018	MCOG public hearing	Heard all testimony including MTA’s list of 15 needs and 2 new needs, forwarded total list of 27 needs to MTA for analysis
May 21, 2019	Transit Productivity Committee (TPC)	TPC will review MTA’s analysis of 27 needs and make a recommendation to MCOG as to whether there are any needs that are “reasonable to meet” or not, by definition.
May 21, 2019	SSTAC meeting	SSTAC opportunity to review MTA’s analysis and the TPC’s recommendation, and to make its own recommendation.
June 3, 2019	MCOG Board – budget adoption	MCOG Board will consider recommendations and make a “reasonable to meet” finding by resolution. The budget for June adoption includes \$0 for unmet transit needs, per MTA’s annual claim and TPC’s recommendation.
June 2019	MTA Board – budget adoption	Draft MTA budget is not yet available.

Discussion followed on how last year’s need are being met. Carla gave examples of what MTA’s new grant-funded Mobility Manager can do and described the volunteer driver program where she had worked

previously. Next, it was agreed to report out the Transit Productivity Committee's (TPC) recommendations of that morning. Janet reported with help from Nephele and Carla.

Review of MTA's analyzed list included questions and discussion:

- What is the definition of "disabled"; does it covers mental health also? Need clarity for certain clients. "Temporary", "Conditional" and "Permanent" disability are referenced in ADA. (Jill) Guidance was provided by Carla and Richard.
- #M-14—How will the "pulse system" work at Navarro Bridge? (Group)
- Why did the TPC recommend M-14 and not M-9, More evening transportation from Ukiah to Willits? (Nephele) Both are under review by MTA's route committee. M-9 is in progress; it may come back on the list next year. There are bigger issues, a longer term process involved to make it feasible. (Carla)
- #S-9, Transportation to/from Hopland and Ukiah—This is served by Route 65 but increased service is financially constrained. It was noted there is more economic activity in Hopland now, with workers needing transportation.
- Low Priority needs—clarification that these are not so much low priority as "unlikely." (Carla, Nephele)
- #S-8, Golden Rule RV Park and Willits—the Senior Center has considered providing this, as large MTA busses cannot turn around at this location. (Richard)
- Is Greyhound still operating? Yes, it is the reason MTA's Rte 65 grant is tied to certain times. (Carla)

Recommendation:

Upon motion by Baker, seconded by Meyer, and carried unanimously by those present, the SSTAC accepts and concurs with the Transit Productivity Committee's recommended finding that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet for Fiscal Year 2019/20, as identified on the list:

- #M-7 Bus stop on East Gobbi Street at senior mobile home park (Ukiah area)
- #M-10 Add more service on Talmage Road for those who cannot walk very far
- #M-14 Reconsider a pulse system at the Navarro Junction for buses to Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Gualala and Point Arena.

[M=MTA; PH=Public Hearing; S=SSTAC]

5. Discussion/ Recommendation on Any Other Transportation Issues. Staff clarified and gave past examples. No further discussion, no action taken.

6. Miscellaneous / Members' Concerns / Announcements. Richard asked about the ongoing review of the senior centers TDA (Transportation Development Act) funding formula. Nephele explained status. Staff is looking for a meeting date of all senior center directors sometime in July and will poll the group to schedule. A brief discussion followed, acknowledging this would be a longer process than can be done in time for Fiscal Year 2019/20.

There was discussion of grant applications and vehicle procurement methods and best practices. A Redwood Coast Seniors vehicle was procured through Caltrans, more limited in choices than procurement through CalACT. The new bus was relatively cheap but needs repair already, and RCS must keep it for five years before becoming eligible for a new one. Also there was a report of a fire in MTA's maintenance building earlier this month.

Concerning member appointments, Jill volunteered to fill Charles Bush's seat. Laurie volunteered as Alternate. MCOG staff will nominate them both for formal appointment by the Council.

8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.