



SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE Via Zoom

**Monday, April 5, 2021
1:30 P.M.**

<https://sjcog.zoom.us/j/95389355372>

**Teleconference Number: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 953 8935 5372**

Note: If you don't have access to a smart device or a computer with a webcam & a mic, you can dial in using the teleconference number and meeting ID above.

*In accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20, The San Joaquin Council of Governments and staff will be participating in this meeting via teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public may participate in the meeting electronically using the Zoom link and shall have the right to observe and offer public comment at the appropriate time during this meeting. **To be recognized to speak, please use the "raise hand" or chat feature in Zoom.***

*We have also provided a call-in number, as identified on this Agenda, and encourage you to attend by telephone. **To be recognized to speak, press *9 to signal the moderator.***

The San Joaquin Council of Governments is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make all reasonable accommodations for the disabled to participate in employment, programs, and facilities. Persons requiring assistance or auxiliary aid in order to participate should contact Rebecca Calija at (209) 235-0600 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order (**Georgia Graham, ITC Chair**)
2. Unmet Transit Needs Comment Review Subcommittee Findings (**Ryan Niblock, SJCOG**)
3. RTD System Redesign Update (**Damaris Galvan, RTD**)
4. VanGo Ridership Update (**Damaris Galvan, RTD**)
5. FTA American Rescue Act Funding (**Ryan Niblock, SJCOG**)
6. Earmark Requests for FY 2022 Appropriations Act, and FAST Act Reauthorization (**All Members**)
7. Public Transit Operations Update / Roundtable (**All Members**)
8. Meeting Adjourned to Monday, May 3, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. (**Georgia Graham, ITC Chair**)

AGENDA ITEM 2



April 2021
ITC

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: UTN Comment Review Subcommittee Findings

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept the findings of the UTN Comment Review Subcommittee and begin the development of the Draft FY 21/22 Unmet Transit Needs Report

SUMMARY:

Each year, pursuant to state law, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) must identify any unmet transit needs that may exist in San Joaquin County. If needs are found, SJCOG must determine whether those needs are reasonable to meet. State law requires SJCOG to ensure that reasonable needs are met before Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are allocated to local jurisdictions for non-transit purposes.

The unmet transit needs assessment requires SJCOG to meet the following requirements:

- Ensure that several factors have been considered in the planning process, including:
 1. Size and location of groups likely to be dependent on transit,
 2. Adequacy of existing services and potential alternative services
 3. Service improvements that could meet all or part of the travel demand.
- Hold a public hearing to receive testimony on unmet needs.
- Determine definitions for "unmet transit needs" and "reasonable to meet."
- Adopt a finding regarding unmet transit needs and allocate funds to address those needs, if necessary, before street and road TDA allocations.

This year's assessment included 2 public hearings that were publicly announced in 6 generally circulated newspapers throughout San Joaquin County 30 days in advance, 3 virtual community outreach meetings, and an online survey posted on SJCOG's website, producing a total of 17 comments on transit service from specific individuals.

After review of all comments with a subcommittee from the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, SJCOG found no unmet transit needs that were reasonable to meet.

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the findings of the UTN Comment Review Subcommittee and begin the development of the Draft FY 21/22 Unmet Transit Needs Report.

BACKGROUND:

At the request of the SSTAC, SJCOG formed a subcommittee to review the adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet”. The updated definitions as proposed by the subcommittee and adopted by the Board in February 2018, are as follows:

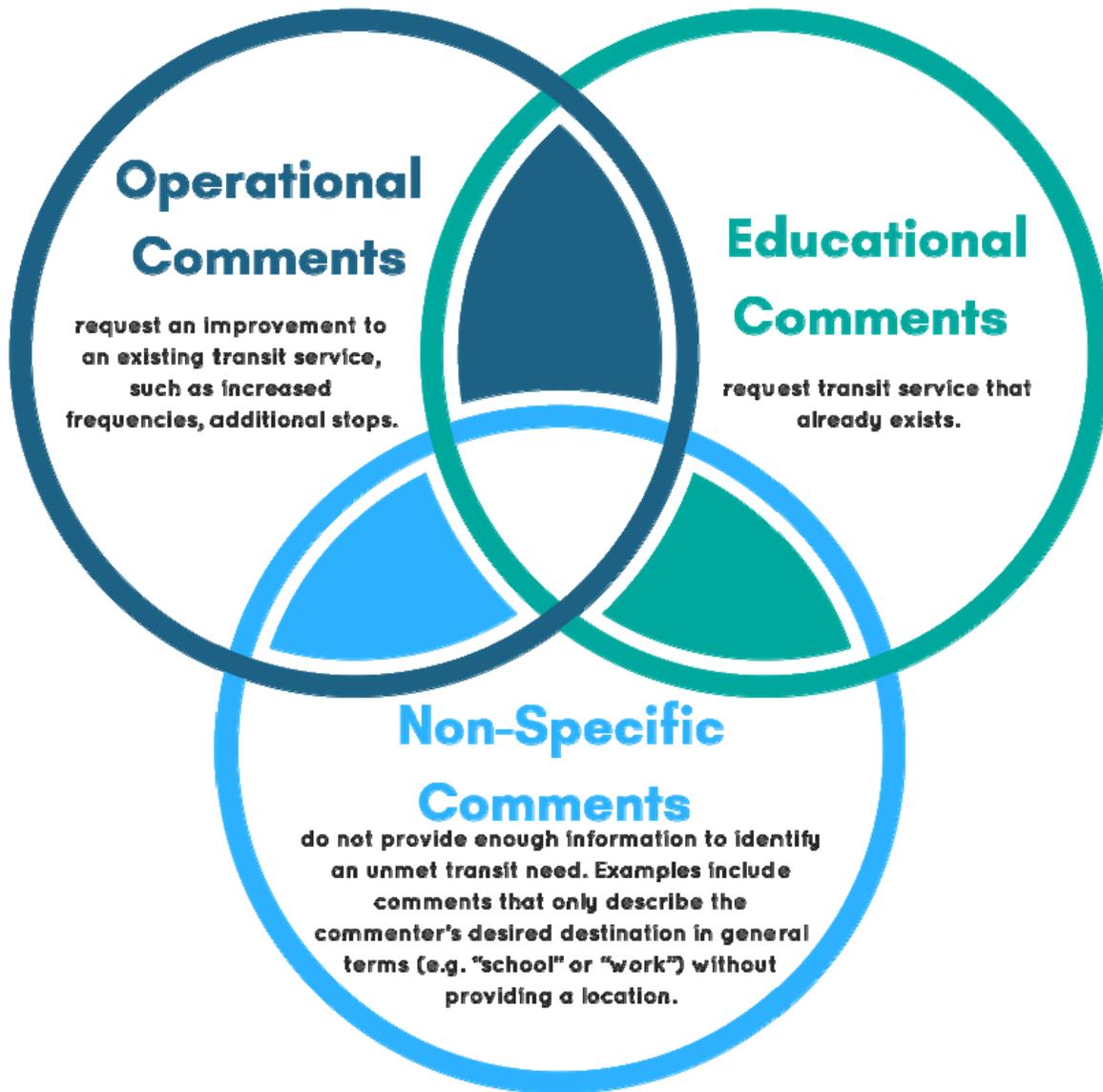
Unmet Transit Needs are those trips required but not currently provided within San Joaquin County for residents who use or would use public transportation to meet their life expectations (school, work, shopping, errands, recreation, etc.).

An unmet transit need that meets the definition above and meets all the following criteria shall be considered **reasonable to meet**:

UTN Reasonable to Meet Criteria	
Criteria	Description
1. Community Acceptance	There should be a demonstrated interest of citizens in the new or additional transit service (i.e. multiple comments, petitions, etc.).
2. Equity	The proposed new or additional service will benefit the general public, residents who use or would use public transportation regularly, the senior population, and persons with disabilities; including assessments based on Title VI or other similar information where available
3. Potential Ridership	The proposed transit service will meet new service ridership performance measures of the implementing agency or agencies, as defined by the implementing agency or agencies in concurrence with the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC).
4. Cost-Effectiveness	The proposed transit service will not affect the ability of the overall system of the implementing agency or agencies to meet the applicable Transit Systems Performance Objectives or the state farebox ratio requirement after the exemption period if the service is eligible for the exemption.
5. Operational Feasibility	The system can be implemented safely and in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
6. Funding	The imposed service would not cause the claimant to incur expenses in excess of the maximum allocation of TDA funds.

Operational, Educational, and Non-Specific Comments on Transit Service

The annual Unmet Transit Needs process provides a broad opportunity for the public to provide input on transit services in San Joaquin County. As a result, comments are often submitted that do not meet the definition of unmet transit needs provided above. These comments generally fall into the following categories:



Although these comments cannot be considered unmet transit needs and thus are not evaluated as to whether they are "reasonable to meet," they still provide valuable input on transit service. SJCOG forwards all comments to the relevant transit operators, who consider them when developing service improvements or providing educational materials to the public.

DISCUSSION:

Public Input

Due to the current pandemic, this year's Unmet Transit Needs process included an extended public outreach process and used various safe and socially distanced techniques to gain public input. These efforts were intended to promote multiple opportunities for members of the public to communicate their unmet transit needs (e.g., SJCOG website, survey, and social media). Examples of this effort include:

- Two virtual public hearings held by the SJCOG Board and by the SSTAC, where the public hearings were advertised through six generally circulated newspapers in English and Spanish
- Three PowerPoint presentations virtually presented to dozens of community groups
- A new UTN@SJCOG.ORG email, specifically created to receive UTN comments year-round
- An online survey was posted on the SJCOG website, published and distributed on 4X6 flyers, and e-blasted on social media platforms

Analysis of Comments Received

SJCOG convened a UTN Review Subcommittee consisting of six members of the SSTAC. The subcommittee met on March 3rd to review all the UTN comments received during this cycle.

Most comments were deemed as Operational, Educational, or Non-Specific categories defined above, and as such were not considered unmet transit needs. These comments will be forwarded to the appropriate transit operators for consideration in service planning.

Four comments were identified as Unmet Transit Needs. However, upon further evaluation and based on the six criteria identified above, they were deemed "Not Reasonable to Meet." All comments and their determinations are listed in Attachment A.

NEXT STEPS:

SJCOG staff will develop the Draft FY 21/22 Unmet Transit Needs Report and present the report and findings to the SJCOG Board in May.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: UTN Comments Matrix

Prepared by Joel Campos, Associate Regional Planner

Attachment A: Unmet Transit Needs Comments Matrix

Unmet Transit Needs Comments									
Number	Jurisdiction	Origin	Destination	Day(s)	Time	Notes	UTN? (YES/ NO)	Is it Reasonable to Meet? (YES/ NO/N/A)	If No, Why Not? (List the Criteria Number)
1	RTD	10042 Noyo Ln	1130 Monaco Ct	Sat-Sun	8:00 AM	Work Purposes	YES	NO	3
2	RTD	Downtown Transit Center	4900 N Hwy 99	M-F	4:00 PM	To get home from work. The number 8 Hopper stopped running. Now I can't get home all the way. Have to walk almost 3 miles from the last stop on the number 43 express bus.	YES	NO	3, Van Go
3	RTD	3185 English Oak Cir	5151 Pacific Ave.	M-F	5:00 PM	Recreation Purposes	YES	NO	3,4
4	RTD	Lodi (95240)	Stockton	M-Sun	All Day	Social Purposes	Night Time, Yes	NO	3,4,5,6
Comments Deemed as Non-UTNs									
Number	Jurisdiction	Origin	Destination	Day(s)	Time	Notes	UTN? (YES/ NO)	Is it Reasonable to Meet? (YES/ NO/N/A)	If No, Why Not? (List the Criteria Number)
5	RTD	Pacific / Alpine	Pacific / Alpine	N/A	N/A	New bus stop on route 40. Put north bound stop by converting red no parking strip to a bus stop. Put south bound stop at Save Mart and city park area.	NO	N/A	Operational
6	RTD	West / East on March Lane	N/A	N/A	N/A	Transfer point indoor mall transfer station. Route to service grocery stores on March Lane since this is where nearly all stores are located. •Suggesting a new service concept to make it easier to shop and comfort seniors as well as anyone shopping. •The concept would be a small bus would pick and drop off passengers in front of the markets front door. •The shoppers could wait inside the store waiting for the bus or near the entrance protecting them from the dangerous heat which exists here nearly year-round here and when it is cold as well.	NO	N/A	Operational, Suggesting to move the bus location from Yokuts to directly in front of the mall
7	ALL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Parking at transfer stations, at markets, at the mall. buses need to cater to people going food shopping, to work, medical appointments, entertainment, movies, bars, etc. More inclusive use of bicycles into the transportation matrix. What is needed is safe, free parking. Parking at transfer stations, at markets, and the mall.	NO	N/A	Operational
8	RTD	North / South California St.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Connecting points would be RT 40 at Walnut/Pacific and new suggest stop on RT 40 / Pacific – Alpine. The route would start at Walnut/P go east up Harding St...then turn left on California St to Quest Blood Lab then proceed to frequent stop north bound and turning on Alpine to Pacific/Alpine new bus stop. Then The route would retrace its route going general south bound on california st-harding way,and back to walnut-P the point of origination.	NO	N/A	Educational
9	ALL	Policy Shift	N/A	N/A	N/A	A policy of catering passengers of where people need to go and where they want to go. Making the system easy to use so one would prefer to take the bus and or bicycle to the target destination.	NO	N/A	Initiatives such as the Vamos Mobility App are currently making this happen

Comments Deemed as Non-UTNs (Continued)									
Number	Jurisdiction	Origin	Destination	Day(s)	Time	Notes	UTN? (YES/ NO)	Is it Reasonable to Meet? (YES/ NO/N/A)	If No, Why Not? (List the Criteria Number)
10	Manteca	Expand RTD Service - Bus stops south of 120	N/A	N/A	N/A	My suggestion is expand the RTD services into smaller cities such as Manteca. I noticed that the services go into Lathrop but not Manteca. Manteca Transit is inadequate for the growing population. The buses aren't even 30 ft buses they are para transit size buses. They are building new communities daily. Near my house they are building a 653 home community and it's not a single Bus stop in the area (off 120 opposite side of great wolf lodge). They could use the less commercial area of Manteca as bus terminals then transport passengers towards the shopping centers, hospital, banks, schools etc.	NO	N/A	Educational
11	RTD	Connect to BART in cities like Dublin or Antioch.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Also it would be nice to have some public transportation that links the Central Valley to Bart other than the ACE train. My suggestion would be to expand the routes on RTD to cover more cities. Open Bus yards/ Divisions in the smaller cities if feasible if not they can still pull out of the yard in Stockton and dead head to the terminals in Manteca, Lathrop etc. There is an unmet need to connect this area to the Bart.	NO	N/A	Educational
12	RTD	261 Lincoln Blvd Tracy 95376	220 E Weber Ave, Stockton	M-F	Arriving at 8:15 (court appointment), transit options don't get me their until after 9; and i have to 2-3 buses to get there	Court Appointments	NO	N/A	Educational
13	RTD	261 Lincoln Blvd Tracy 95376	Dr. Josephine Winn, ENT Specialist, in Stockton	M-F	Can't get there at all. Not strong enough to take 3 buses to get there. This is too difficult for a senior like myself	Doctors appointment	NO	N/A	Educational
14	RTD	Walmart, Lodi	Malls	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	Non-Specific
15	RTD	Hammer Triangle Station	Trinity Parkway	M-Sun	Evening	To go shopping	NO	N/A	Educational
16	RTD	Tracy Transit Center	Downtown Transit Center	Sat-Sun	All Day	To go to work	NO	N/A	Educational
17	RTD	Downtown RTD Transit Center	Dublin/Pleasant on BART	M-F	5:30-6 PM	To go to work	NO	N/A	150 leaves DTC at 3 pm and at 7 PM