SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SOCIAL SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SJCOG Conference Room
555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202

Thursday, May 21, 2020
4:00 P.M.

https://sjcog.zoom.us/j/96509245072

Teleconference Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 965 0924 5072

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.

Attention Callers: Please mute the call unless speaking

NOTICE
Coronavirus COVID-19

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 which will 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.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order / Introductions / Roll Call

2. Minutes: February 3, 2020

3. Public Presentation
   At this time, the public may address the Technical Advisory Committee on any non-agendized item that is within the subject matter of this agency. If a member of the public wishes to speak on an agenda item he or she is invited to address the Technical Advisory Committee at the time the item is up for consideration. A five-minute maximum time limit for a speaker will apply to all “items from the audience”. The determination
of whether an item is within the subject matter of the Committee is a discretionary decision to be made by the chair of the Technical Advisory Committee.

4. Technical Items: A through B are available for action by the committee. The left hand column identifies only recommendations from staff.

Discussion A. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Transit Funding (Niblock)

Discussion B. Draft FY 2020-21 Unmet Transit Needs Report (Goldlist)

5. Other Matters of Business

6. Meeting Adjourned to Thursday, June 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
1. **Call Meeting to Order/Introductions**
The SSTAC meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Joel Campos. Introductions were made.

**Committee Members Present**
- Julia Tyack, City of Lodi
- Juan Portillo, City of Manteca
- Joni Bauer, Community Center for the Blind and the Visually Impaired
- Armando Valerio, Public Health Services
- Toan Tran, San Joaquin Regional Transit District

**Alternates/Others Present**
- Jayne Pramod, City of Tracy
- Martha Nguyen, San Joaquin Regional Transit District

**Committee Members Not Present**
- John Andoh, City of Escalon
- Ed Lovell, City of Tracy
- Deborah Gurley, Transit User 60 Years or Older
- Mary Bailey, United Cerebral Palsy
- Wilma Murray, Valley Mountain Regional Center
- Josh Swearingen, Caltrans District 10

**SJCOG Staff Present**
- Ryan Niblock, Senior Regional Planner
- Joel Campos, Assistant Regional Planner
- Melissa Ablang, Administrative Clerk II

2. **Minutes: November 18, 2019**
Ms. Pramod indicated she has a correction to the minutes regarding the City of Tracy offering free rides during the month of December and not green rides.

Correction noted, it was moved/seconded (Valerio/Bauer) to approve the minutes of November 18, 2019. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. **Public Comments**
Ms. Bauer stated she has heard wonderful things about TRACER Paratransit.

4. **Update on FY 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs and Formation of SSTAC Subcommittee**
Joel Campos stated SJCOG staff received ninety-nine comments for unmet transit needs, which are summarized in the staff report, and requested for volunteers to create a subcommittee to review the comments. Mr. Portillo, Mr. Toan, Ms. Pramod, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Valerio and Ms. Tyack volunteered.

Mr. Niblock stated he believes John Andoh would want to volunteer. Mr. Campos indicated he would reach out to him.
Mr. Portillo asked if the committee can get more information on the comments received before the subcommittee meets. Mr. Campos said that he will send the information he has but some comments don’t have a lot of information.

Mr. Portillo asked if there is a way to reach out to them. Mr. Campos said their information should be listed.

Mr. Portillo questioned if Greyhound is an unmet transit need. Mr. Campos stated the gentleman that made the comment is requesting some kind of transportation between Manteca and Modesto or Stockton and Sacramento.

This item was for discussion only.

5. **Access San Joaquin (CTSA) Update (Verbal Report)**
Joel Campos stated Access San Joaquin has been operating for one year now so they drafted an annual report that they should be submitting to SJCOG soon. They offer ADA assessments, travel training, volunteer rides, discount fare cards, and they support Van Go. SJCOG appreciates the hard work they’ve been doing.

Ms. Bauer said it’s really nice to have one-stop-shop for ADA eligibility.

Mr. Portillo said travel training is a great service they offer but it is not being fully utilized, so he asked that everyone spread the word.

Ms. Bauer asked if travel trainers are through the CTSA or if each entity has a travel trainer. Mr. Tran stated they have one travel trainer for the CTSA in the county.

This item was for information only.

6. **Other Matters of Business**
Mr. Campos stated SJCOG is in the middle of the UTN process and staff would like to establish more language in the UTN report. SJCOG staff will be looking for feedback at the next SSTAC meeting in April because staff plans to provide an updated Draft Chapter 1 UTN Report.

Mr. Tran asked how the target or goal will be developed in terms of metrics. Mr. Campos stated that is something the committee will have to discuss.

Mr. Tran asked if SJCOG would consider a six month evaluation of service rather than a nine month evaluation. RTD needs more than three months to carry out the process.

Mr. Portillo inquired about the review process since you need at least a year for a pilot service. Mr. Campos stated there would be a twelve month pilot period but the committee will determine, during the six month evaluation, if that pilot should extend beyond the twelve months.

Mr. Tran indicated it would be an update on the service at the six month mark and then another update at the nine month mark.

Mr. Niblock said the Board would probably appreciate a six month as well.

Ms. Pramod asked if RTD is receiving calls regarding the service. Mr. Tran stated they’ve received two comments so far but no calls.
Mr. Valerio asked who makes the determination whether a service will extend beyond the nine or twelve months. That is not enough time to see how the service performs. Mr. Campos stated it would be more like an update to see how the service is doing.

**Wilma Murray joined the meeting during the discussion of this item.**

**Adjournment**
There being no further business to discuss, the SSTAC meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting will adjourn to Monday, April 6, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Transit Funding

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion

SUMMARY:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed on March 27, 2020, provides $2 trillion in federal funding through a number of programs to address issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Public transit will receive $25 billion through the CARES Act. Specifically, within San Joaquin County, the following has been made available:

- Stockton UZA – $33,734,638
- Lodi UZA – $5,532,640
- Manteca UZA – $6,830,739
- Tracy UZA – $7,101,511
- California has been apportioned $94,976,667 for rural transit providers. Caltrans is responsible for distributing these funds to regions. This is triple the standard amount that was received for the 2019/20 fiscal year ($31,720,947). It is uncertain as to whether Caltrans will use the exact same formula to distribute rural transit funds from the CARES Act as it does for the regular transit funds (called 5311), but transit providers and SJCOG will be involved in this process and assist Caltrans with any information needed.

Funding will be provided at a 100-percent federal share, with no local match required – to support capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. FTA will permit Urbanized Area Formula Program or Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program funding to be used for COVID-19-related public transportation capital or operating expenses at an 80 percent federal share, regardless of whether operating expenses generally are an eligible expense for a recipient. Eligible activities include emergency protective measures to eliminate or lessen threats to public health and safety, such as performing enhanced cleaning/sanitizing of rolling stock, stations, bus shelters, etc.; placing hand sanitizer dispensers in high traffic areas; and providing personal protective equipment as appropriate. Operating expenses incurred beginning on January 20, 2020 for all rural and urban recipients, even those in large urban areas, are also eligible, including operating expenses to maintain transit services as well as paying for administrative leave for transit personnel due to reduced operations during an emergency. Funds are available until expended. There is no lapse date to obligate funds available under the CARES Act.

Split and/or sub allocation letters must be updated to include funds made available under the CARES Act. SJCOG staff intends to organize meetings with designated recipients and affected
transit agencies to work together to discuss needs and priority criteria, and to seek agreement on strategy to split funds. Thus far, SJCOG staff has worked with RTD and ACE to develop a split of Stockton UZA funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Discuss CARES Act funding split possibilities, process for UZAs, project needs, and overall impacts to transit as a result of COVID-19.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None at this time.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None.

*Prepared by Ryan Niblock, Senior Regional Planner*
AGENDA ITEM 4B
STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Draft FY 20/21 Unmet Transit Needs Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion

SUMMARY:

Each year, pursuant to state law, the Transportation Development Act (TDA), 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. SJCOG must ensure that reasonable needs are met before 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 nine public hearings, an online survey posted on SJCOG’s website, and paper submissions, producing a total of 107 comments on transit service from specific individuals.

After review of all comments with the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee, SJCOG found no unmet transit needs recommended be found reasonable to meet. The report is available on SJCOG’s website: https://www.sjcog.org/UTN.

RECOMMENDATION:

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 defined as transportation services not currently provided to those residents who use or would use public transportation regularly, if available, to meet their life expectations.
An unmet transit need that meets the definition above and meets all the following criteria shall be considered **reasonable to meet**:

**Community Acceptance**

There should be a demonstrated interest of citizens in the new or additional transit service (i.e. multiple comments, petitions, etc.).

**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.

**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 Committee (SSTAC).
Within the definition, an unmet transit need cannot be found unreasonable solely based upon economic feasibility.
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 in the following categories:

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**Operational Comments**
- Request an improvement to an existing transit service, such as increased frequencies, additional stops.

**Educational Comments**
- Request transit service that already exists.

**Non-Specific Comments**
- Do not provide enough information to identify an unmet transit need. Examples include comments that only describe the commenter’s desired destination in general terms (e.g., “school” or “work”) without providing a location.

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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

This year’s Unmet Transit Needs process included an extended public outreach process using new 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, social media, phone). Examples of this effort include:

- Nine public hearings held throughout San Joaquin County, including at least one hearing in each jurisdiction
- Attending community events and reaching out to local organizations
- An online survey was posted on the SJCOG website and e-blasted to interested parties

The various community outreach efforts produced a total of 107 comments on transit service.

Analysis of Comments Received

SJCOG convened a UTN Review Subcommittee consisting of seven members of the SSTAC (including RTD, other transit operators, and social service providers). Most comments were deemed to fall into the 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.

Findings

Based on the analysis described above, SJCOG recommends the following Unmet Transit Needs Findings for FY 20/21:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Unmet Need, determined Not Reasonable to Meet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lathrop</td>
<td>Loop route from Generations Center to City Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lathrop</td>
<td>Route connecting Lathrop and Manteca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodi</td>
<td>Service to/from City Council meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodi</td>
<td>Service to Micke Grove Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodi</td>
<td>Increased service connecting Stockton and Lodi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodi</td>
<td>Service connecting 711 Cross St and 1400 Tenth St in Lodi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Transportation to Micke Grove on weekends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Increased weekend service to San Joaquin RTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Increased weekend service to Sherwood Mall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Service from Feather River Drive to Pacific and Alpine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Service from Feather River Drive to Pershing and Alpine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Additional night service on Route 23, and other routes to Lodi at night.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Service at Morehead trailer park on Chrisman Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Service from Mountain House to Stockton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Service from Mountain House to El Concilio in Tracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Service to Safeway Depo Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Route connecting Tracy and Manteca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Service from Tracy to Blackhawk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Mountain House to 11th Street Tracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manteca</td>
<td>Route connecting Lathrop to Manteca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manteca</td>
<td>Route connecting Tracy and Manteca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATTACHMENTS

None.

Report prepared by Ryan Niblock, Senior Regional Planner