

About the Unmet Transit Needs Process

The California Legislature enacted the Transportation Development Act (TDA) in 1971 to improve public transit services and encourage regional transportation coordination. TDA statutes require transportation planning agencies using TDA funds for local streets and roads projects, to implement a public process, including a public hearing, to identify unmet transit needs of transit dependent or disadvantaged persons, and determine if unmet transit needs can be reasonably met.

In its role as the TDA fund administrator, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County annually solicits public input to identify unmet transit needs. Although TAMC no longer allocates TDA funds to local streets and roads, the Agency still continues to solicit public input on unmet transit needs.

The unmet transit needs process begins with public outreach to solicit comments on unmet transit needs. Public hearings to collect comments on unmet transit needs are held at a meeting of TAMC's Board of Directors and at a meeting of Monterey-Salinas Transit's Mobility Advisory Committee, which serves as TAMC's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. TAMC's Board of Director's receives the final unmet transit needs list of comments.

Unmet Transit Need Definition

An unmet transit need is a public transportation need that the public transportation system is not currently meeting and would be expected to generate sufficient ridership to meet the required 15% farebox recovery ratio, as set by the TAMC Resolution 2004-19 pursuant to TDA law.

Unmet Transit Need Evaluation

Unmet transit needs are placed into the following categories:

1. Transit service improvement requests that would improve an existing service.
2. Transit service expansion requests that extend a transit route beyond its current limits and fill a gap in service.
3. Capital improvement projects that would enhance existing public transit facilities.

TAMC shares the list of unmet transit needs comments with Monterey-Salinas Transit, the only public transportation provider in the county. The unmet transit needs comments list serves as a public input tool for MST's short and long term transit service planning and improvements. TAMC works with MST to evaluate comments based on the time frame in which unmet transit needs can be met:

- Short term transit improvements are those that can be implemented in the current service year within MST's funding limits and without negatively impacting existing services.
- Long term transit improvements are those that would require additional funding beyond MST's current funding limits. Long term improvement comments remain on the unmet transit needs comment list until additional funding becomes available.

MST's Mobility Advisory Committee provides input on the categorized unmet transit needs comments list. This input serves to prioritize needs in the region, and is used to assist prioritizing transit projects as funds become available. The TAMC Board of Directors will receive the final list.