

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
2026 Monterey County Unmet Transit Needs**

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.

Transit Needs Timeline

- **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.

Unmet Need Comment	Year Identified	Category	Timeline	Status in 2026
Service to San Juan Grade Road and Russell Road in Salinas	2014	Category #2: new service, fills a gap	Long-term improvement.	Through implementation of the Better Bus Network in December 2022, MST began service on Line 49 (Salinas-Santa Rita) which serves Russell Road and San Juan Grade Road. To serve the intersection of Russell Road and San Juan Grade Rd, major infrastructure improvements are required to place a bus stop at that intersection.
Shuttle service between Pinnacles National Park and Fort Hunter Liggett and King City	2014/2019	Category #2: new service, fills a gap	Long-term improvement.	This shuttle service is cost prohibitive and would require resources being reallocated from other services/areas. Current road conditions are also a safety concern. The City of Soledad is currently studying improvements for the Pinnacles Parkway project, which may consider a park shuttle service. The National Park Service currently offers Day-Use seasonal shuttle service to visitors utilizing their parking lots. The on-site shuttle service only runs on the east side of the park. MST originally provided service to Fort Hunter Liggett, however, due to lack of ridership, the service was terminated.

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Unmet Need Comment	Year Identified	Category	Timeline	Status in 2026
Increase Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) service to 7 days a week including holidays or operate the emergency ride home program from Salinas to Gilroy 7 days a week.	2024	Category #1 improves an existing service Category #2 new service, fills a gap	Long-term improvement	Because of the funding that serves Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) and the partnership with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, MST only has funds to cover weekday operating expenses. TAMC manages the emergency ride home program. The program is open to Monterey County commuters who use an alternative transportation mode at least once week. Additional eligibility requirements can be found on the TAMC website.
7 days a week, every 2 hours, including holidays on line 59 from 7:00am to 6:00pm	2024	Category #1 improves an existing service	Long-term improvement	Because of the funding that serves Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) and the partnership with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, MST only has funds to cover a limited number of round trips on weekdays.
7 days a week, every 30 minutes on Line 34 (King City) from 7:00am to 6:00pm	2024	Category #1 improves an existing service	Long-term improvement	Line 34 (King City) currently runs from 6:45am – 7:00pm every 30 minutes on weekdays. MST currently does not have funds in its operating budget to provide weekend service.
Add 7 day a week service to Line 48 (Salinas-Northridge)	2024	Category #1 improves an existing service	Long-term improvement	MST currently does not have funds in its operating budget to provide weekend service.
Add more frequent service on Line 49 (Salinas-Santa Rita) on Sundays to connect to N Main shopping centers.	2024	Category #1 improves an existing service	Long-term improvement	MST currently does not have funds in its operating budget to increase frequency on Sundays. Alternatively, riders can use Line 41 (Salinas-Alisal-Northridge) to connect between Northridge Mall and Salinas Transit Center. Line 49 has increased night service to 8:00pm on weekends.

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Resolved Transit Needs

Unmet Need Comment	Year Identified	Year Resolved	Resolution
More out of county medical trips that cost less	2014	2017	MST increased the frequency and lowered the cost of out of county medical trips using Measure Q funds in July 2017. An analysis of the enhanced service was conducted in the fall of 2018. As of 2023, MST offers a Special Medical Trips service to hospitals in the Bay Area for \$20 round trip.
CSUMB enhanced paratransit service on campus; more accessible vehicles are needed for student mobility on-campus	2015/2016	2022	Federal ADA requirements and operational constraints of the RIDES service make it challenging for MST to provide this type of paratransit service as CSUMB students have a very narrow window of time to get from one class to another. In January 2022, CSUMB launched their shuttle service to enhance paratransit service on campus. MST also provides taxi vouchers to students who need para transit services.
Improved service between South County and the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey in Monterey	2017	2019	MST conducted a Salinas Valley Transit Planning Study to identify transit improvements along the US 101 corridor. After implementation of the Better Bus Network, South County riders can get to the Superior Court by connecting to Lines 23X (Salinas-King City EXPRESS), 20 (Monterey-Salinas), and 7 (Monterey-Ryan Ranch) in under 2 hours.
Increased frequency on Line 18 (Sand City-Marina via Monterey Road)	2014	2023	Through implementation of the Better Bus Network, the CSUMB shuttle service overlaps with Line 17 (Sand City-Marina via Gen Jim Moore) and 18 (Sand City-

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			Marina via Monterey Road) and three bus stops which increased frequency to every 30 minutes.
More frequent service to Gonzales and Soledad	2014	2023	The King City bus yard was completed in Fall of 2021. MST has implemented an express service in 2022, Line 23X (Salinas-King City EXPRESS), which stops at selected bus stops throughout the route. Under the Comprehensive Operational Analysis, Line 23 (Salinas-King City) operates every hour with multiple buses running less than an hour during rush hour periods. As of 2023, the Better Bus Network has increased frequencies to Gonzales and Soledad by at least every hour to half hour at commute peak times.
Better access to Salinas Chinatown by adding (or move an existing) bus stop to Tom O. Wong Way And Rossi St	2023	2023	Service to Sherwood Drive and Rossi Street was reinstated under the Better Bus Network. There are no plans to add service.
Route 46 (Salinas Natividad) bus stop at Sherwood and Rossi St (stop #2994) has no bus stop signal.	2023	2023	Bus stop #2994, Sherwood Drive/Rossi, has appropriate bus stop signage with a flag and pole
Improve the connection between Castroville and Prunedale for access to Gavilan College in Gilroy	2018	2024	MST and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority re-established service to Gilroy. Began Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) service to Gilroy in October 2023 with bus stops in Salinas, Prunedale and Gilroy. Riders from Castroville can connect to Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) by riding Line 28 (Watsonville via Castroville) to the Salinas Transit Center.

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Improve the connection between Castroville and Prunedale for access to Gavilan College in Gilroy	2018	2025	MST and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority re-established service to Gilroy. Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) began service to Gilroy in October 2023 with bus stops in Salinas, Prunedale and Gilroy. Riders from Castroville can connect to Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) by riding Line 28 (Wastonville via Castroville) to the Salinas Transit Center. Line 59 stops at the Gilroy Transit Center and riders can connect with VTA Line 86 to Gavilan College.
Add more night service (frequent service) on Line 41 (Salinas-Alisal-Northridge) after 6:30pm and improve the connection to the Salinas Walmart	2024	2025	MST does not have plans to restore the bus stop outside the Walmart Supercenter. Riders can connect to Line 49 (Salinas-Santa Rita) near Boronda Rd and San Juan Rd and transfer to Line 41 (Salinas-Alisal-Northridge) . The Westridge Walmart is served by Line 44 (Salinas-Westridge) which has a closer bus stop on Westridge Pwky. Line 41 now has night service going into 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00pm on weekends.
Service to San Juan Bautista and Los Baños	2015/2018	2026	Monterey County transit users can now take MST Line 59 (Salinas-Gilroy) to the Gilroy Caltrain Station and connect with Amtrak Gold Runner Route 40 that runs to Merced with a stop in Los Banos. Line 59 connects with San Benito County Express Intercounty service which runs to Hollister with a stop in San Juan Bautista. For further connections to the Los Banos region, commuters through this corridor can apply for MST's Vanpool program.