

**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**P. O. BOX 98 – DOWNIEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95936**

**Minutes: SSTAC Meeting – April 9, 2025**

SSTAC Members Present: Bryan Davey, Executive Director, Sierra County Transportation Commission; Kaylon Hall, Sierra County Transportation Planner; Lila Heuer, Sierra County District 2 Supervisor; Paul Cueto, Transit Representative, Sierra County Transportation Commission; Vanessa Fatheree, Integrated Case Worker Supervisor, Sierra County Social Services (Remote); Sandra Loving, Transit Provider, Golden Rays Senior Citizens of Sierra County, Inc.; Eric Toraason, Transit Provider, Incorporated Senior Citizens of Sierra County (Remote); Sam White, Potential Transit User Western Sierra County, Potential Transit User over 60; and Suzanne Smith, Executive Secretary, Sierra County Transportation Commission.

The meeting was conducted at Sierraville School, and telephonically through Teams, and was called to order by Miss Hall.

Miss Hall reviewed the purpose of the SSTAC and stated the main point of this meeting is to determine the unmet needs definitions that shall be adopted by the Sierra County Transportation Commission at an Unmet Needs Public Hearing set Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The two (2) definitions are 1) what is the unmet needs of our transit services and 2) what needs are reasonable to meet. This process is necessary to fund the next year's programs that are currently in place.

The Golden Rays Senior Citizens of Sierra County, Inc. reported that activities have improved with the hiring of a Transportation Coordinator and they are in the process of hiring another driver. This will make 2.5 drivers on staff. Currently their services are set up on an as needed basis. They have tried fixed routes in the past with no success. Incorporated Senior Citizens of Sierra County (ISCSC) reported that things are good. Making sure to maximize their ridership, trips and funding.

Miss Hall reported the annual transit budget is \$262,912.10. SB125 funding will allow the purchase of an additional van for ISCSC.

Miss Hall read the definitions and both transit providers explained their process to meet unmet needs in the County by coordinating trips to maximize the ridership as a public transit program providing highly specialized services.

The proposed definitions of "Unmet Needs" and those that are "Reasonable to Meet" are recommended as follows:

Unmet Needs

"A lack of available transportation-related services supported by adequate and reasonable findings which restrict or prevent movement of people within Sierra County as identified in the Regional Transportation Plan. Due to Sierra County's geographical diversity, the cost of transit services are much higher than in an urban setting, insufficient funding and constrictive funding parameters are a need that has been identified as an unmet need. Priority **should** be given to the persons with disabilities and the elderly (defined as age fifty-five and older) who do not have available transportation or transit, due to physical or financial reasons, and to levels of local services not presently provided or which are not

provided at a desirable level.”

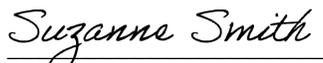
The definition of Reasonable to Meet is as follows: The transit programs *as they currently exist* fulfill the County’s needs that are reasonable to meet for the upcoming fiscal year as:

- a) Any transportation service that offers equitable access to all persons including the young, economically disadvantaged, elderly and disabled, that when evaluated against such criteria as equity, timing, feasibility, economy, community acceptance and cost effectiveness, that service can generate a 10% fare box recovery match.
- b) A transportation system that when implemented, meets a 10% farebox return and does not exceed a yearly total operating cost in transit funds of \$262,912.10. This amount is the total programmed by Sierra County Transportation Commission for operations of the transit services within Sierra County, to be divided between the geographic areas of Sierra County - east and west.

These definitions will be reflected in the Unmet Needs Resolution which will be presented to the Sierra County Transportation Commission for adoption on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 following the annual unmet needs hearing to be conducted at 10:10 a.m.

With thanks to the SSTAC members for participating, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Suzanne Smith