



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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AGENDA ITEM 5
HCAOG Board Meeting
November 18, 2021

DATE: November 4, 2021
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee
FROM: Stephen Luther, Associate Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Public Hearing to Receive Public Comments on Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) for FY 2022-23**

Contents:

- Staff Summary
- Unmet Transit Needs Public Participation Handout

Staff Summary:

The Unmet Transit Needs hearings and solicitation of public comment is an annual process held to fulfill legislative requirements necessary for HCAOG to allocate local funding through the Transportation Development Act (TDA), which provides funding for both transit and non-transit purposes. HCAOG must assess unmet transit needs in jurisdictions before being able to allocate Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to cities for streets and roads, or for purposes not directly related to public transit, or facilities used exclusively by pedestrian and bicyclists.

This process is led by HCAOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The SSTAC works with transit operators in the region to determine if a request meets the definition of an unmet transit need, or if the comment refers to an operational issue. Comments that meet the definition are analyzed to determine if the need is "reasonable to meet," according to adopted definitions. A new service must meet a minimum 10% farebox revenue recovery to be considered reasonable to meet.

The purpose of today's hearing is to hear testimony from the public on unmet transit needs. HCAOG advertises public hearings to receive public comment concerning transit needs within the region. This year, eight public hearings were held by HCAOG and member agencies. Comments may also be submitted to HCAOG through an online survey, in person, mail, or telephone. HCAOG accepts transit needs comments year-round. Those received by December 31, 2021 will be included in the 22-23 UTN Report of Findings.

Based on comments received from this outreach process, staff will prepare a Report of Findings in consultation with the SSTAC. The HCAOG Board will receive the Report of Findings in April/May 2022 and at that time make one of the following findings:

- (a) there are no unmet transit needs; or
- (b) there are no unmet transit needs which are reasonable to meet; or
- (c) there are unmet transit needs, including those that are reasonable to meet.