



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 4a
HCAOG Board Meeting
December 12, 2024

DATE: December 3, 2024
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee
FROM: Michelle Nielsen, Planwest Partners, HCAOG Contract Planner
SUBJECT: **Public Hearing to Receive Public Comments on Unmet Transit Needs for FY 2025-26**

Contents:

- Staff Summary
- Unmet Transit Needs Process Synopsis

Staff Summary:

State law requires the regional transportation agencies, such as HCAOG, and their composite communities address unmet transit needs on a yearly basis through the Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) process. At the core of the process is input from the community on what transit needs exist.

This process is led by HCAOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The SSTAC considers public comments and deliberates on whether the requests meet the definition of an unmet transit need, and if so, if they are "reasonable to meet" based on projected ridership and operational costs. New or expanded services must meet a minimum 10% marginal farebox revenue recovery to be considered reasonable to meet. The fact that an identified transit need cannot be fully met based on available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet. Comparing unmet transit needs with the needs for streets and roads is not allowable in determining transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

HCAOG solicits community input in a number of ways. Each jurisdiction is encouraged to hold a public hearing. Most of our member jurisdictions held hearings in November. Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) also held a hearing at their Board meeting in November. Surveys are also used to solicit feedback. The surveys are available in English and Spanish and are advertised through various means such as through HTA's on bus infotainment screens, social media, and by placing flyers at key locations such as college campuses.

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, 2023 will be included in the 24-25 UTN Report of Findings.

While it is HCAOG's practice to widely solicit input for the UTN process, as required by statute the outreach must include one noticed public hearing conducted by the Regional Transportation Planning Agency. The hearing today fulfills this purpose. This hearing was originally scheduled for December 19th, 2024, but was rescheduled for today. A hearing will not take place on December 19th.

All comments received will be compiled in January and February 2025 for review by the SSTAC. After the SSTAC reviews and makes recommendations, the final report of findings will come before the HCAOG Board in May of 2025.