



MINUTES

KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Thursday, June 1, 2023

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was called to order by Ms. Teresa Nickell, KCAG Regional Planner, at 10:00 a.m. on June 1, 2023 at the Kings County Association of Governments conference room and via teleconference, in accordance with COVID-19 Public Meeting Protocol.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Angie Dow, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency
Rebecca Donabed, RICV Independent Living
Chris Riddington, Classic Charter

STAFF PRESENT: Teresa Nickell, Regional Planner

VISITORS PRESENT: Heather Corder, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency
Mark Pedreiro, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency

B. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None.

C. MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Donabed / Dow) to approve the Minutes of April 27, 2023 as submitted. Motion approved.

II. TRANSPORTATION

A. Unmet Transit Needs Analysis

Ms. Nickell stated the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) holds an annual public hearing to review what unmet transit needs exist within Kings County that are reasonable to meet. The public hearing must be conducted prior to approving the allocation of the Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads projects. The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) helps to identify unmet transit needs of the transit dependent or transit disadvantaged persons, including the elderly and persons with disability or limited means. Once all public hearings are held within the County and jurisdictions, the SSTAC will review all testimony and assess individual requests. The SSTAC will provide a recommendation to the KCAG TPC with one of three findings: 1) There are no unmet transit needs; or 2) There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; or 3) There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

Ms. Nickell mentioned KCAPTA held public hearings in February & March for unmet transit needs, and City of Corcoran held a public hearing in March. KCAG held a public hearing on April 26 continued to May 24 and closed the public hearing with no comments received. Corcoran also received no comments. However, KCAPTA received comments which must be analyzed to ensure any unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet are met before Local Transportation Funds are expended for non-transit uses, such as for streets and roads.

Ms. Nickell explained that before any comment for a potential unmet transit need can be considered reasonable to meet, the TPC must make a finding that there is indeed an unmet transit need, the comment must meet the definition of an “unmet transit need” and once the need is identified, a quantifiable assessment of reasonableness must be performed. If the unmet transit need meets all eight performance assessment criteria, then the need is deemed “reasonable to meet”. The operator must then provide a proposal for implementation of the transit service to meet the unmet transit need. The TPC must document and adopt a finding regarding “unmet transit needs” and allocate funds to pay for the transit service proposed to address those needs before streets and roads allocations.

Ms. Nickell reviewed the countywide definition adopted by the KCAG TPC board of what is an “Unmet transit need”. An unmet transit need that meets the definition and meets all the following criteria with the proposed or planned service, shall be considered “reasonable to meet”: Feasibility, Duplication, Community Support, Farebox retention, Potential Ridership, Transit Development Plan goals, Funding, and Equity.

Ms. Nickell stated there were four comments received by KCAPTA as follows: Two requests for Route 20 to provide evening timepoints to West Hills College for night classes; one request for service to Valley Children's Hospital in Madera County on Route 17; and, one request to provide flex service to late evening hours, and on Saturday and Sunday for employees to connect to the Amtrak San Joaquins trains. Ms. Dow indicated there is not adequate ridership to West Hills College, KCAPTA will continue to work with students in the fall semester. There will not be a waiver for farebox requirements this year and KART will strive to meet 15% farebox requirement with lower ridership levels without adding additional service this next year. Valley Children's Hospital does not have sufficient ridership, and there are duplicate services available through Fresno FAX and other connections.

Ms. Donabed asked what KCAPTA has done for building ridership. Ms. Dow indicated public outreach efforts have been underway with public presentations at high schools and communities, an Avenal pilot program using grant funding, seasonal 3-month pass for \$20 has been extremely helpful. Ms. Donabed asked if there is free transit for the elections voting. Ms. Dow indicated fixed route and paratransit will be free only during the Transit Free Week during the year, but not to the voting poles because the poles will be set up within each community to provide accessibility.

B. Unmet Transit Needs SSTAC Recommendation

Ms. Nickell provided the draft Letter of Recommendation to Ms. Dow for signature to recommend the findings and determination for the 2023 Unmet Transit Needs to the KCAG TPC on behalf of the SSTAC.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Future Meetings

Ms. Nickell indicated the next TPC meeting on June 28, 2023 will be held to finalize the Unmet Transit Needs process with a letter of recommendation for the TPC.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned on June 1, 2023 at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Nickell

Teresa Nickell, KCAG Regional Planner