



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



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Executive Director

TO: Inyo County Local Transportation Commission
FROM: John Pinckney, Transportation Planner
DATE: June 17, 2020
SUBJECT: Unmet Transit Needs Findings - Recommendations

Recommended Action Your Commission is being asked to a) adopt Unmet Transit Needs Findings as presented by staff and b) approve Resolution No. 2020-04 regarding unmet transit needs.

2020/2021 Unmet Transit Needs Hearing The Inyo County Local Transportation Commission will not allocate TDA funds to local streets and roads in the 2020/2021 year. All TDA funds will be allocated to public transit and TDA eligible set-asides (for TDA administration, 2% to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and 5% for community transit services).

The Unmet Transit Needs process is a valuable exercise in that it lets the Commission, Eastern Sierra Transit, and the public explore the strengths and weaknesses of the transit system. The dialogue at the SSTAC meeting and unmet transit needs hearing provides valuable information to transit entities of changing needs in the area. Eastern Sierra Transit has been effective at modifying their services to meet area transit needs and identifying new sources of funding to provide other services.

Unmet Transit Needs Findings We have reviewed the information presented at the February 3, 2020 Social Services Transit Advisory Council meeting. There were no public comments at the Unmet Transit Needs Hearing (April 15th). ESTA received one additional comment during the open comment period.

Following are the definitions of “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet.” The definitions were adopted by the ICLTC in 1995 and amended in 2007 and are as follows:

An Unmet Transit Need exists if an individual or individuals of any age or physical condition are unable to transport themselves from one location to another. An Unmet Transit Need is, at a minimum, those public transportation or specialized transportation services that are identified in the Regional Transportation Plan and that have not been implemented or funded.

A documented Unmet Transit Need is reasonable to meet if:

A service can be provided which meets a minimum farebox ratio of 10% of operating costs; and

- a) It is transit service for essential intra-county purposes which are defined as medical or dental services, shopping, employment, personal business, or social service appointments; or,
- b) It is a transit service for essential inter-county purposes which are defined as medical or dental services or social service appointments not available in this county or the out-of-county destination is the closest location where the services are available to the origin of the trip; and,

The origin and/or destination of the trip is within two miles of the established area of operation or cohesive community.

Comments received by ESTA & Testimony Presented at the Social Services Transit Advisory Council Meeting February 3, 2030 in Bishop, California			
Name	Need	Unmet Transit Need that is Reasonable to Meet	Next Step
Unidentified Senior Citizen from Keeler, CA	Transportation to and from Lone Pine for essential medical services and shopping	There is an existing Dial-A-Ride service in Lone Pine, CA. Keeler is 15 miles east of town. With a small fare box recovery this is a service that is reasonable to meet within the current service hours without a substantial cost.	ESTA will revise their Dial a Ride service to accommodate this need one to two days a week. ESTA is currently working with the effected individual to develop appropriate scheduling.
Arlene Calahan, ESTA Rider	Extend Dial-a-Ride service hours in Bishop	This is more of a scheduling issue and although it maybe an unmet transit need it is unreasonable to meet. Bishop Dial-A-Ride has extensive hours. An xpansion would require additional hours & funding.	ESTA is encouraged to explore alternate schedules within their current funding level.

The SSTAC meeting and Unmet Transit Needs hearings were held in accordance with the Transportation Development Act and the Inyo County LTC Organization and Procedures Manual.

Findings:

The following findings are made in the attached resolution based on the analysis above:

1. A meeting of the SSTAC was held on February 3, 2020.
2. A duly noticed Unmet Transit Needs Hearing was held on April 15, 2020 at the on-line LTC Meeting.
3. There is one new transit need identified that satisfies the definition of an *unmet transit need* and *reasonable to meet*.

Attachments:

- Proposed ICLTC Resolution No. 2020-04
- SSTAC February 3, 2020 meeting notes