

LASSEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 16-01
ADOPTING “UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS” AND “REASONABLE TO MEET”
DEFINITIONS

WHEREAS, the Transportation Development Act (TDA) provides funding for streets and roads under Article 8 for counties with a population of 500,000 or less, and

WHEREAS, Lassen County has a population of less than 500,000 thereby making Lassen County eligible for funding under Article 8, and

WHEREAS, Section 99401.5 of the TDA requires that transportation planning agencies identify unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet prior to making any allocations for streets and roads, and

WHEREAS, the regional transportation planning agency is required to adopt definitions of the terms “unmet transit needs” and “reasonable to meet” by resolution as a component of the unmet needs process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the definition of “unmet transit needs” is deemed as follows:

An unmet transit need is any deficiency in the system of public transit services, specialized transit/paratransit services, and private transportation services within the jurisdiction of the Lassen County Transportation Commission (LCTC) which has been identified by community members or through a local or regional planning process and which has not been funded and implemented. At a minimum, this may include desires for transportation services which are identified through the annual TDA Unmet Transit Needs public hearing, by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council, in Lassen County’s Transportation Development Plan, in the Regional Transportation Plan, or in the compliance plan for the Americans with Disabilities Act as prepared by any public or private entity.

LCTC recognizes that public transportation includes a broad range of users, uses, and destination. Although, some services may be restricted or give priority to traditionally transit-dependent populations (such as elderly, disabled, low-income, or youth), all eligible users should have equivalent access or opportunity to use the service. The transportation desire of a small group of individuals or of the clients of particular agencies shall not, in and of themselves, be sufficient to justify a finding of unmet transit need.

Trips that would duplicate transportation services to the general public are not considered unmet transit needs. A need for transportation service beyond the fiscal year under consideration shall not be considered to be an unmet transit need at the present time. Provision of escorts or attendants is not a transit need.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the definition of “reasonable to meet” is deemed as follows:

An identified unmet transit need can be determined to be “reasonable to meet” if it is demonstrated, based upon LCTC staff analysis or other independent evidence, that the transit need can be met within the following performance and financial standards:

The performance standard for fixed-route systems is 10% fare revenue ratio.

All other systems shall achieve at least the fare revenue ratio and passenger productivity standards established in the Lassen County Transit Development Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan or as established by statute.

An extension of service shall not cause the system of which it is a part to fail to meet the system-wide performance standards. Considered separately, it shall achieve at least half the system-wide performance standards, except in case of an extension of service determined to be a necessary lifeline service for transit dependent populations.

The unmet transit need will not require the expenditure of more than the affected jurisdiction(s) proportional share of Transportation Development Act funds that are apportioned by LCTC on the basis of population.

The determination of whether a transit need is reasonable to meet shall also take into account as appropriate:

1. Likely demand for service based on transit use rates per capita in comparable communities.
2. Whether a service to meet the need would put the system of which it is a part in jeopardy of losing state or federal funding as a result of failing to meet mandated performance or efficiency standards.
3. In the case of any new general public transit services, potential Americans with Disabilities Act implications within that service area, including whether or not complementary paratransit service, if required, would impose an “undue financial burden” on the public entity.
4. In the case of a paratransit service providing complementary service to fixed-route service by a public entity, whether meeting the need would require spending a greater amount than that required by an undue financial burden waiver approved by the Federal Transit Administration under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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5. Opportunities for coordination among adjoining public entities or with private transportation provider and /or funding agencies. This shall include consideration of other existing resources (including financial), as well as the legal or customary responsibilities of other entities (e. g., social service agencies, religious organizations, schools, carpools, etc.) Duplication of other services or recourses is unnecessary and not a prudent use of public funds.
6. An unmet transit need may be determined to be unreasonable to meet because it is not feasible to initiate service within the coming fiscal year, due to the time required for vehicle acquisition, planning, or similar time factors, or because additional information is needed to determine whether or not the unmet needs is reasonable to meet. An unmet transit need shall not be determined unreasonable to meet more that once on these grounds.
7. The fact that an identified transit need cannot be fully met based on available resources shall not be the sole reason for a finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet.
8. Comparing unmet transit needs with the need for streets and roads shall not make the determination of whether an unmet transit need is reasonable to meet.

The foregoing resolution of the Lassen County Transportation Commission was adopted at its January 11, 2016 regular meeting by the following vote:

AYES: Albaugh, Wilson, Hemphill, Garnier, DeBoer, and Chapman

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None



Aaron Albaugh, Chairman
Lassen County Transportation Commission