

# STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** (1) Open a Public Hearing to accept comments of any Unmet Transit Needs within San Joaquin County.  
(2) Close the Public Hearing with no further action necessary, at this time.

## **SUMMARY:**

Each year pursuant to state law and acting as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) must identify any unmet transit needs that may exist in San Joaquin County. If needs are found, SJCOG must determine whether those needs are reasonable to meet. State law requires SJCOG to ensure that reasonable needs are met before Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are allocated to local jurisdictions for nontransit purposes.

The unmet transit needs assessment requires SJCOG to meet the following requirements:

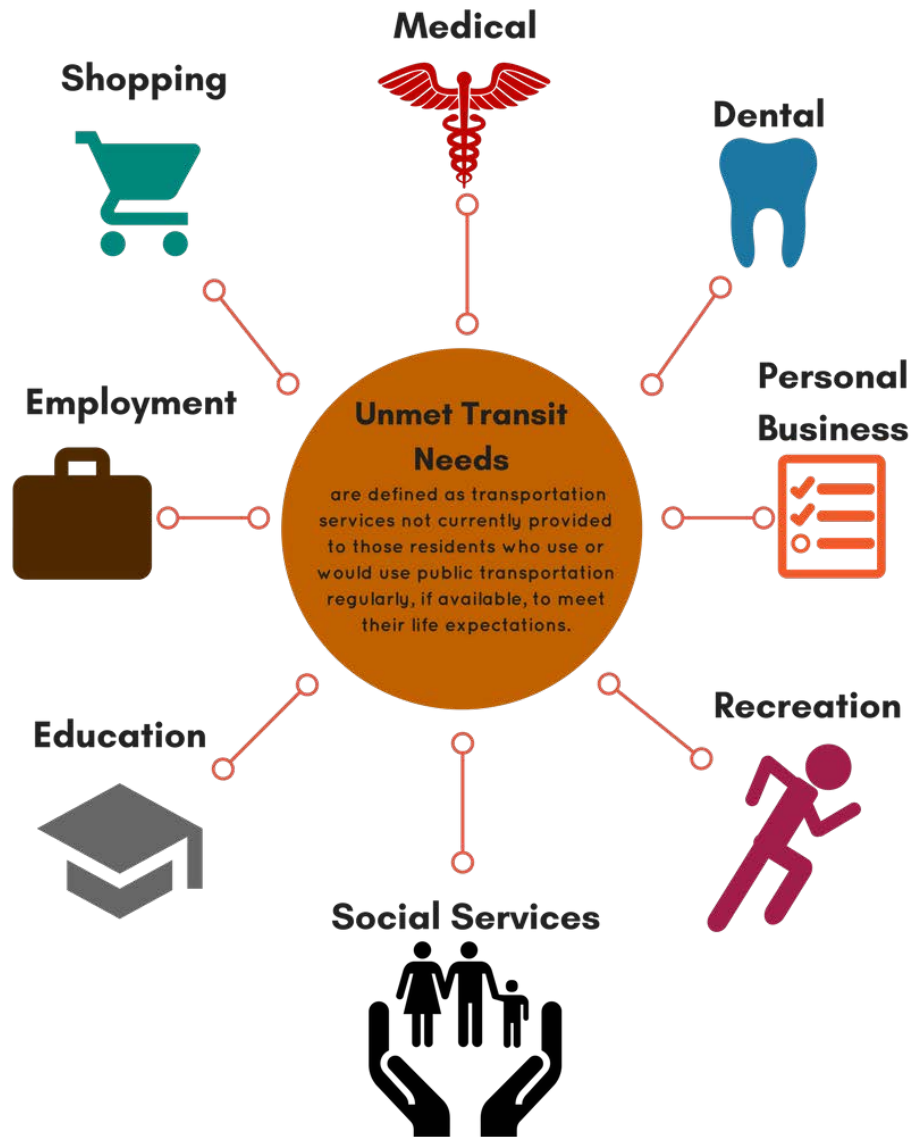
1. Ensure that several factors have been considered in the planning process, including:
  - a. Size and location of groups likely to be dependent on transit.
  - b. Adequacy of existing services and potential alternative services.
  - c. Service improvements that could meet all or part of the travel demand.
2. Hold a public hearing to receive testimony on unmet needs.
3. Define the terms “unmet transit needs” and “reasonable to meet.”
4. Adopt a finding regarding unmet transit needs and allocate funds to address those needs, if necessary, before street and road TDA allocations.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

SJCOG staff recommend that the chair (1) open the public hearing to accept comments on any unmet transit needs in San Joaquin County, and (2) close the public hearing with no further action necessary, at this time.

## **BACKGROUND:**

At the request of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), SJCOG formed a subcommittee in September 2017 to review the adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet.” The updated definitions as proposed by the subcommittee and adopted by the board in February 2018 are:



An unmet transit need that meets the definition above and meets all the following criteria, shall be considered reasonable to meet:



Within the definition, an unmet transit need cannot be found unreasonable solely based upon economic feasibility.

## DISCUSSION:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of uncertainty among transit riders. To ensure San Joaquin County residents are provided an opportunity to voice their transit needs, SJCOG has increased the modes by which residents can participate in the Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) assessment. SJCOG staff have laid out the following tasks to ensure widespread input is gathered:

- Created a dedicated email address, [UTN@SJCOG.ORG](mailto:UTN@SJCOG.ORG) to receive UTN comments year-round.
- Published the Dec. 9th, 2021 UTN Public Hearing notice in six local newspapers, including a Spanish-language newspaper.
- Made available both an online and printable (English and Spanish) UTN survey.
- Conducted informational UTN PowerPoint presentations to various groups.

## NEXT STEPS:

- SJCOG will collect comments until Dec. 31, 2021.
- SJCOG staff and SSTAC members will analyze all comments to determine if any are considered unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.
- Board adoption of UTN findings in spring 2022.

*Report prepared by Joel Campos, Associate Regional Planner*