

TO: Placer County Board of Supervisors

DATE: September 12, 2023

**FROM: Cory Peterson, Senior Transportation Planner
Mike Costa, Senior Transportation Planner**

SUBJECT: PCTPA Current Planning and Outreach Efforts

RTP 2050 2nd Round Outreach

Every five years, PCTPA updates its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to convey the policy direction, projects, and funding recommendations to meet the needs of Placer County's transportation system. The previous update was adopted by the Board in 2019, and had a horizon year of 2040. The new update will extend the plan until 2050. It will be completed as a parallel effort to SACOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), known as the 2025 Blueprint, planning efforts.

Public involvement is critical to the success of the RTP. Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) are required to implement a public involvement process, including opportunities for private and public operators of transit and freight, tribal governments, local cities and communities, the general public, and other interested/affected stakeholders. The RTP will also include an effort to reach out to and solicit feedback from underserved and/or disadvantaged communities within Placer County.

PCTPA conducted the first round of public outreach for the RTP in October through December 2022. During this engagement period, staff attended numerous pop-up events throughout Placer County, conducted three public workshops (two virtual and one in-person) and hosted an online survey that was responded to by over 1,100 people. The outreach's objective was to broadly assess the public regarding their transportation investment priorities. A summary of this outreach and its results were presented to the PCTPA Board on March 22, 2023.

A second round of public outreach, including a new survey, is planned to begin in September 2023, and will focus on prioritizing specific regional projects for the RTP. Projects identified in the survey consist of various modes, including roadway, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian projects. PCTPA staff also plans to attend various local pop-up events in each of Placer's jurisdictions to share information about this survey effort and project information with the public. The tentative schedule for these events is as follows:

- Auburn: Old Town Farmers Market (October 14, 2023)
- Colfax: Railroad Days (September 17, 2023)
- Lincoln: Taste of Lincoln Showcase (September 23, 2023)
- Loomis: Eggplant Festival (October 7, 2023)
- Rocklin: Hot Chili Cool Cars (September 16, 2023)
- Roseville: Family Fest (September 30, 2023)
- Roseville: Placer Valley Tourism Expo (October 6, 2023)

- **Unincorporated – West Slope: Sheridan Pop-Up Fair (October 14, 2023)**

In addition to these pop-up event, PCTPA staff will host two virtual workshops (October 18th and 19th), and one in-person workshop at PCTPA’s offices in Auburn (October 17th). We are also presenting at each City/Town Council (with the exception of Roseville, where we will attend their Transportation Commission) throughout the months of August and September 2023.

FY 2024/25 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment and Comprehensive Operational Analysis / Short-range Transit Plan Outreach/Engagement Process

Each year, PCTPA works with the Placer region’s transit operators, social service transportation providers, and other public/private stakeholders to identify any transit needs that are currently not being met by existing public transit services. This process, known as the Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Assessment, is required by the Transportation Development Act (TDA) because of the specific funding that PCTPA annually administers through the TDA, which can be utilized for street and roadway projects only after PCTPA determines that there are no “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” within Placer County (excluding the Tahoe Basin). PCTPA defines an unmet transit need as a request for public transit service that is not already provided by the existing transit system, specifically in an area that is more than a 0.75-mile walking distance of an existing transit stop or service. A request is also considered an unmet transit need if it is for a service that is needed for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For a request to be considered reasonable to meet, PCTPA evaluates any new potential transit service implemented to address the unmet transit need based on meeting all the following criteria:

- The new transit service must meet the fare recovery standards established by PCTPA pursuant to the TDA.
- The new service must be paid for by existing transit funding available through the TDA and be a reasonable use of taxpayer funds.
- There must be strong and broad support for the new transit service (not just a request from a few individuals and/or specific stakeholder interest groups).
- Implementing the new service must be consistent with both the RTP and short-range transit plan applicable for the jurisdiction where the potential unmet transit need is identified.

If an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet is identified, then TDA funding must be allocated for that new transit service prior to funding being available for street and road purposes. Please note that general operational issues (e.g., improved bus stop amenities, service reliability, modifications to route schedules and/or bus stops along a given route, customer service, etc.) are not considered unmet transit needs. However, any comments pertaining to these issues are provided to the transit operators for their review and consideration to address.

PCTPA will begin the annual Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Assessment outreach process on September 5, 2023. This year’s outreach/engagement process will involve the availability of an online survey (available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog), informational e-mails sent to various public and partnering agencies regarding the UTN process and survey availability, and social media posts to solicit stakeholder engagement through the available survey. Additionally, PCTPA staff plans to visit each member jurisdiction during August through October to conduct in-person UTN presentations and/or make information available about the process where members of the public can provide their input regarding transit needs (through the survey).

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Concurrent with this year's UTN Assessment process, staff has begun planning efforts for the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) and Short-range Transit Plan (SRTP) project, which started in July 2023. The COA/SRTP project implements additional transit outreach and public engagement activities, including the administration of an onboard transit survey (on Placer County Transit and Auburn Transit buses/services) and focus group meetings with various stakeholders throughout the region. The COA/SRTP project is further being coordinated with the City of Roseville's COA project to ensure that resulting service plans will complement and integrate with each other to produce a coordinated transit network provided by all three of Placer County's transit operators. General public feedback on public transit systems and services provided in Placer County will be solicited within the UTN Assessment survey. Staff will coordinate both the UTN and COA/SRTP outreach and engagement activities to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce confusion and/or fatigue.

The UTN Assessment process is anticipated to be completed in February 2024, with a draft report and staff recommendation regarding whether there are any unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet for the Board's review/determination. The COA/SRTP planning process and additional public engagement will continue through Spring 2025, which is when the project will be completed. Starting September 5th, public comments regarding unmet transit needs and broad transit service questions for the COA can be provided through PCTPA's unmet transit needs survey (which will be available online at either <https://www.pctpa.net/unmet-transit-needs> or <https://www.pctpa.net/coa-srtp>), via e-mail to mcosta@pctpa.net, or by calling Mike Costa at (530) 823-4029. Comments will be accepted from September 5th through October 31st, 2023.

