



# INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

P.O. DRAWER Q  
INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526  
PHONE: (760) 878-0201  
FAX: (760) 878-2001



Clint Quilter  
Executive Director

TO: Inyo County Local Transportation Commission

FROM: Courtney Smith, Transportation Planner

DATE: June 18, 2014

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. 2014-12 regarding unmet transit needs.

## **Unmet Transit Needs Findings**

I have reviewed the information presented at the February 26, 2014 Social Services Transit Advisory Council meeting and the April 16, 2014 and May 21, 2014 Unmet Transit Needs Hearings. Finally, in order to evaluate the items presented, I have reviewed the definitions of “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet.” The definitions for the mentioned items 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.

**20014/2015 Unmet Needs Hearing Context**

The Inyo County Local Transportation Commission will not allocate TDA funds to local streets and roads in the 2014/2015 year. All TDA funds will be allocated to public transit and TDA eligible set-asides (2% to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, 5% for administration, and 5% for community transit services).

Below is a synopsis of comments received and an evaluation of whether these comments meet the definition of *unmet transit need* and *reasonable to meet*.

<b>Testimony Presented at the Social Services Transit Advisory Council Meeting February 26, 2014 Bishop, California</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Unmet Transit Need that is Reasonable to Meet</b>	<b>Next Step</b>
Jill Batchelder	Extended service hours and reduce fare to Cerro Coso Community College	The service exists though the schedule doesn't work well because of evening classes. The extended service is an unmet transit need though based on ESTA's survey it does not appear that it is reasonable to meet. This need has been raised in previous years.	ESTA is coordinating with Cerro Coso to arrange for some test runs to evaluate ridership
Jill Batchelder, Krista Cooper	Out of the area non-emergency medical transport to specialty services out of the area	This is an unmet transit need that has been raised previously. It is not reasonable to meet because of the distance to the medical services (much further than two miles)	ESTA is implementing grant to provide out of area service via grant. The grant will expire. Service not practical without grant funding.
Jill Batchelder	Parking at the Northern Inyo Rural Health Clinic	This does not meet the definition of an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet. Northern Inyo Rural Health Clinic needs to redesign their parking and circulation.	ESTA is working with Northern Inyo staff on the turning, parking, and space needs of ESTA's vehicles
Krista Cooper	Elderly riders new to public transit need to be educated on how to use public transit	This does not meet the definition of an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet.	ESTA is available to schedule rider trainings. Contact their office to arrange a training
Krista Cooper	Lone Pine to Bishop round trip leaves users with an excessively long layover in Bishop	This is not an unmet transit need because the transit service currently exists.	ESTA will work to continue to monitor their services to make them as efficient as possible.
Krista Cooper	Need for evening and weekend transit service	This is a scheduling issue and not an unmet transit need unless it can be demonstrated that it is possible to meet farebox.	ESTA will assist Health and Human Services in designing a survey to evaluate the transit need after Drug & Alcohol training classes. ESTA may pursue grants depending on results of survey

**Testimony Presented at the Unmet Transit Needs Hearing  
April 16, 2014  
Lone Pine, California**

Name	Need	Unmet Transit Need that is Reasonable to Meet	Next Step
Beth Himelhoch	There is a need for bus service between Bishop and Mammoth Lakes on Saturdays	ESTA provided this service in the past, but the ridership. The ridership was poor and did not meet farebox. Therefore, this route is not reasonable to meet.	A survey needs to be completed to demonstrate how the ridership will change for this route.

**Testimony Presented at the Unmet Transit Needs Hearing  
May 21, 2014  
Bishop, California**

Name	Need	Analysis	Next Step
There were no unmet transit needs presented at the May 21, 2014 unmet transit needs hearing held as part of the May 21, 2014 ICLTC meeting at the Bishop City Council Chambers.			

**Findings**

Based on the analysis above:

1. There are **no** new transit needs that satisfy the definition of an *unmet transit need* and *reasonable to meet*.

Attachments:

- Draft ICLTC Resolution No. 2014-12
- SSTAC February 26, 2014 meeting notes
- April 2014 LTC minutes regarding Unmet Transit Needs Hearing
- May 2014 LTC draft minutes regarding Unmet Transit Needs Hearing