

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
2023 Monterey County Unmet Transit Needs**

Unmet transit needs are placed into the following categories:

1. Transit service improvement requests that would improve an existing service.
2. Transit service expansion requests that extend a transit route beyond its current limits and fill a gap in service.
3. Capital improvement projects that would enhance existing public transit facilities.

Transit Needs Timeline

- **Short term transit improvements** are those that can be implemented in the current service year within MST’s funding limits and without negatively impacting existing services.
- **Long-term transit improvements** are those that would require additional funding beyond MST’s current funding limits. Long-term improvement comments remain on the unmet transit needs comment list until additional funding becomes available.

Unmet Need Comment	Year Identified	Category	Timeline	Status in 2023
Service to San Juan Grade Road and Russell Road in Salinas	2014	Category #2: new service, fills a gap	Long-term improvement.	Through implementation of the Better Bus Network in December 2022, MST began service on Line 49 which serves Russell Road and San Juan Grade Road. To serve the intersection of Russell Road and San Juan Grade Rd, major infrastructure improvements are required to place a bus stop at that intersection.
Shuttle service between Pinnacles National Park and Fort Hunter Liggett and King City	2014/2019	Category #2: new service, fills a gap	Long-term improvement.	This shuttle service is cost prohibitive and would require resources being reallocated from other services/areas. Current road conditions are also a safety concern. The City of Soledad is currently studying improvements for the Pinnacles Parkway project, which may consider a park shuttle service. The National Park Service currently offers Day-Use seasonal shuttle service to visitors utilizing their parking lots. The on-site shuttle service only runs on the east side of the park. MST originally provided service to Fort Hunter Liggett, however, due to lack of ridership, the service was terminated.

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Unmet Need Comment	Year Identified	Category	Timeline	Status in 2023
Service to San Juan Bautista and Los Baños	2015/2018	Category #2: new service, fills a gap	Long-term improvement.	This need is not listed as a priority in the Comprehensive Operational Analysis. However, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority is working to bring a new bus route from Merced to San Jose which will include stops in Los Banos and Gilroy. MST has secured a federal grant award to begin Line 59 service from Salinas to Gilroy. Riders would connect services in Gilroy to San Juan Bautista.
Improve the connection between Castroville and Prunedale for access to Gavilan College in Gilroy	2018	Category #1: improves an existing service; Category #2: new service, fills a gap	Long-term improvement	MST will work with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority to secure funds to re-establish service to Gilroy. MST has secured a federal grant award to begin Line 59 service to Gilroy in Fall 2023 with planned bus stops in Salinas, Prunedale and Gilroy. Riders from Castroville would connect to Line 59 by using Line 28 to the Salinas Transit Center.

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Resolved Transit Needs

Unmet Need Comment	Year Identified	Year Resolved	Resolution
More out of county medical trips that cost less	2014	2017	MST increased the frequency and lowered the cost of out of county medical trips using Measure Q funds in July 2017. An analysis of the enhanced service was conducted in the fall of 2018. As of 2023, MST offers a Special Medical Trips service to hospitals in the Bay Area for \$20 round trip.
CSUMB enhanced paratransit service on campus; more accessible vehicles are needed for student mobility on-campus	2015/2016	2022	Federal ADA requirements and operational constraints of the RIDES service make it challenging for MST to provide this type of paratransit service as CSUMB students have a very narrow window of time to get from one class to another. In January 2022, CSUMB launched their shuttle service to enhance paratransit service on campus. MST also provides taxi vouchers to students who need para transit services.
Improved service between South County and the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey in Monterey	2017	2019	MST conducted a Salinas Valley Transit Planning Study to identify transit improvements along the US 101 corridor. After implementation of the Better Bus Network, South County riders can get to the Superior Court by connecting to Lines 23X, 20, and 7 in under 2 hours.
Increased frequency on Line 18	2014	2023	Through implementation of the Better Bus Network, the CSUMB shuttle service overlaps with Line 17 and 18 and three

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			bus stops which increased frequency to every 30 minutes.
More frequent service to Gonzales and Soledad	2014	2023	The King City bus yard was completed in Fall of 2021. MST has implemented an express service in 2022, Line 23X, which stops at selected bus stops throughout the route. Under the Comprehensive Operational Analysis, Line 23 operates every hour with multiple buses running less than an hour during rush hour periods. As of 2023, the Better Bus Network has increased frequencies to Gonzales and Soledad by at least every hour to half hour at commute peak times.
Better access to Salinas Chinatown by adding (or move an existing) bus stop to Tom O. Wong Way And Rossi St	2023	2023	Service to Sherwood Drive and Rossi Street was reinstated under the Better Bus Network. There are no plans to add service.
Route 46 bus stop at Sherwood and Rossi St (stop #2994) has no bus stop signal.	2023	2023	Bus stop #2994, Sherwood Drive/Rossi, has appropriate bus stop signage with a flag and pole