

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC TRANSIT REQUESTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

	RPAC	Request/Comment	Unmet Need	Reasonable to Meet/Explanation	Costs/Actions/Solutions
Unmet Transit Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet					
1.	Countywide (SSTAC meeting)	Language access for dial-a-ride, mainly for Mammoth Lakes and Spanish speakers, requires improvements.	Yes. It would be an expansion of service for transit-dependent individuals to obtain necessities of life.	Yes, this unmet transit need is reasonable to meet.	ESTA and First 5 Mono County are working in cooperation on improving language access for ESTA riders. Translation stickers have been created and installed on ESTA buses.
2.	Long Valley	The bike racks on buses are often already full when the bus arrives. More bike storage should be available.	Yes. It would be an expansion of service for transit-dependent individuals to obtain necessities of life, including recreation.	Yes, this unmet transit need is reasonable to meet.	ESTA will train drivers to utilize available space at the rear of the bus for additional bike storage. Other than utilizing space at the rear of buses, there are no feasible solutions for adding more capacity for bicycles as it is not safe to add another bike rack to the side or rear of the buses. Towing a trailer for bikes is also not feasible.
Unmet Transit Needs That Are Not, or May Not Be, Reasonable To Meet					
3.	June Lake	Locals struggle to make it to Mammoth for medical appointments, shopping, etc. Potential solutions offered include expanding the route that runs Tuesdays to more days of the week, a June Lake dial-a-ride service, expanded advertising and better placement on website for Tuesday route, and a Mammoth/June express route.	Yes. This request would involve an expansion of existing services or new services to assist transit-dependent individuals in obtaining necessities of life, such as medical appointments.	No, this route between Mammoth and June Lake was tried a few years ago, but ridership was insufficient in relation to fare box requirements. Since adding the Tuesday route, there have been nearly zero riders.	With a cost of \$800/day and low demand, farebox requirements are unlikely to be met.

4.	June Lake	Better service is needed in June Lake. A summer June Lake loop route to service the village, beach, trailheads, etc. would be beneficial. Needs to be well marked and advertised.	Yes. This request would involve a new service to assist transit-dependent persons in obtaining necessities of life, such as recreation.	No. A local fixed route was tried a few years ago, but ridership was low. Fare box requirements are unlikely to be met.	With a cost of \$800/day and low expected ridership, farebox requirements are unlikely to be met. Nonetheless, ESTA is exploring possibilities and seeking to hire a local driver. A local driver would reduce the cost of the service.
5.	June Lake	More pickups at the Bishop airport are required. The only pickup there is at 6 a.m., which means most who fly in would need to stay in Bishop overnight to catch the bus to Mono County.	No. This service already exists.	There are currently four trips a day from the Bishop Airport to Mammoth Lakes. The times are as follows: 6:35a, 7:15a, 1:00p, and 6:00p.	N/A
Not Unmet Transit Needs					
1.	June Lake	North Shore Drive road improvements (e.g., fixing the cracks) are required for bicycle riders.	No, not transit related.	N/A	North Shore Drive is scheduled to be repaved in 2028. Allocation of federal funds has been programmed in the fiscal year 2027-28 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).
2.	Antelope Valley	There is no southbound ESTA stop in Walker.	No. Comments pertaining to day-to-day operations or decision-making powers of a transit operator are considered "operational" and not typically considered to be Unmet Transit Needs.	N/A	ESTA has created a southbound Walker stop at the Walker Wellness Center located at 107655 Highway 395.

3.	Countywide (SSTAC meeting)	Buses should be updated to include wireless data since many transit-dependent individuals do not have data plans.	No. Comments pertaining to day-to-day operations or decision-making powers of a transit operator are considered "operational" and not typically considered to be Unmet Transit Needs. Comments which are customer service or marketing related, as well as comments which relate to improved amenities, are considered "operational."	N/A	The cost of installing wi-fi on buses is prohibitive for the small number of users anticipated. Hardware and data plans for 55 vehicles would be very high.
4.	Bridgeport	Transit from Bridgeport to Walker and back is required for seniors who attend events (e.g., bingo night, monthly birthday celebrations, etc.) in Walker.	No. This is a charter request rather than a request for additional service that would be available to the general public.	N/A	<p>The Mono County Health and Human Services Department estimates an annual cost of approximately \$27,000 to offer this service. This estimate includes 1100 miles and 64 hours of staff time per month.</p> <p>ESTA has also provided an estimate. To provide a new service, the estimate is approximately \$50,000 per year. This assumes one roundtrip per week for 50 weeks a year. It may be possible to offer this service for a lower cost if the Walker Dial-a-ride service can be utilized.</p>

5.	Countywide (SSTAC meeting)	Outreach should be expanded for available transit options. Many people in rural areas of Mono County are transit-dependent and often need transportation but are unaware of the available options.	No. Comments pertaining to day-to-day operations or decision-making powers of a transit operator are considered "operational" and not typically considered to be Unmet Transit Needs.	N/A	Comment has been forwarded to ESTA for review and consideration.
6.	Countywide (SSTAC meeting)	During PSPS events, those who are energy-dependent for oxygen, etc., need to get to community centers to obtain power. These individuals also tend to be transit dependent.	No. This is a charter request rather than a request for additional service that would be available to the general public.	N/A	The update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan currently underway will address this issue.
7.	Bridgeport	There should be an ESTA stop at Sonora Junction for backpackers.	No. Comments pertaining to day-to-day operations or decision-making powers of a transit operator are considered "operational" and not typically considered to be Unmet Transit Needs. "Operational" comments include comments relating to additional bus stops along an existing route.	N/A	ESTA will pick riders up at Sonora Junction so long as they make a reservation or call in advance. Prepaid reservations are preferred but exact change upon pickup is also acceptable. ESTA has obtained approval from Caltrans to construct a Sonora Junction bus stop. Construction of the bus stop is estimated to cost approximately \$90,000 and no funding has been identified. At present, five or less people are picked up at Sonora Junction per month.

8.	Antelope Valley	People who are transient or have car problems, etc. often need transportation to Carson City or Reno, but if they do not have a reservation, they cannot get on the bus in Walker. The Northbound stop should be a regular stop and not require a reservation. The Southbound stop was addressed earlier this year.	No. Comments pertaining to day-to-day operations or decision-making powers of a transit operator are considered "operational" and not typically considered to be Unmet Transit Needs. "Operational" comments include those that pertain to minor route or bus stop modifications.	N/A	Reservations are no longer required to be picked up at the northbound ESTA stop in Walker.
9.	Mammoth Lakes (SSTAC meeting)	Disabled individuals are often unable to find handicap parking at Main Lodge. Dial-a-ride could fill the gap.	No, this is a parking issue rather than an unmet transit need.	N/A	The Town of Mammoth Lakes will consult with the ski area regarding ADA parking at Main Lodge and recommend that the ski area provides the appropriate number of ADA parking spaces as required by current codes