



# BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP

COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
24860 BIRCH STREET  
WILLITS, CA 95490  
Phone: 707-459-2494  
Fax: 707-459-0358  
btcsd@btcsd.org



December 10, 2019

Mendocino Transit Authority  
241 Plant Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Critical Need for Harrah Senior Center 'Care-A-Van' Senior Citizen Transportation in Willits

Dear MTA Board of Directors,

Brooktrails is one of several unincorporated communities in Mendocino County that fall within a jurisdiction belonging to the Mendocino Transit Authority Joint Powers Authority (MTA). The unincorporated areas of Willits are home to many vulnerable senior citizens who rely on the Senior Center for transportation, meals and camaraderie. Without the Harrah Senior Center, many of these individuals would lack basic services that enhance and sustain their lives.

This letter is to help ensure the continuance of senior citizen transportation services, sub-contracted out to Harrah Senior Center through the MTA as the 'Care-A-Van' program. We understand that there is a period of review underway to determine the cost-effectiveness and compliance of the program with MTA standards. Especially considering the September 2019 changes to Dial-A-Ride services, a continued reduction in public transportation services, either through MTA or one of its sub-contractors, could be life-threatening to many of the individuals that the September 2019 changes were designed to serve.

Therefore, whether the results of this period of review yield a determination of program cost-effectiveness or not, it is absolutely critical that 'Care-A-Van' services to the City and unincorporated Willits remain intact. The Brooktrails Township Community Services District has asked the MTA over the years to *expand* service into Brooktrails with a bus stop for our residents. The scenario where services to the elderly and infirm are *cut* instead is alarming and should be abandoned for a safer, better and more balanced option.

Sincerely,

  
R. Rick Williams  
Board President

Cc: Richard Baker, Harrah Senior Center