Yuba-Sutter Aging and Disabilities Plan

Data Packet 2: Transportation and Community Mobility

The chart on the following pages summarizes key themes, identified needs, and potential solutions from the three data sources listed below, focusing on one of the five approved goals of the Yuba-Sutter Aging and Disabilities Plan. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers in Yuba and Sutter Counties, offering a solid foundation for community stakeholders to develop data-driven solutions that effectively address these needs.

1. **Data Map:** A comprehensive review of local and state data aligned with the California Master Plan for Aging's five bold goals for 2030. Local sources include Adventist Health and Rideout's Community Health Needs Assessment, the Ombudsman Program, Regional Housing Authority, and Sutter Yuba Homeless Consortium. State and national sources, such as the California Department of Aging, UCLA Elder Index, U.S. Census Bureau, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

2. **Community Surveys:** Input was gathered from 297 respondents, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers, through a culturally relevant, multilingual survey available in English, Hmong, Punjabi, and Spanish. The survey explored key topics, including housing and community, emergency preparedness, transportation, healthcare and related services, social participation and inclusion, and communication. Responses captured perspectives across diverse geographic and demographic groups.

3. **Focus Groups:** Insights from 75 participants across eight diverse focus groups, including older adults, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, veterans, caregivers, and low-income residents— communities historically under-resourced and under-served in the Yuba-Sutter area. Discussions explored housing, emergency preparedness, transportation, community accessibility, healthcare, nutrition, and social engagement.

GOAL 2: ENHANCE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY MOBILITY

Key Themes	Data Findings (Needs/Challenges)	Insights (Possible Solutions)
Transportation Themes		
Transportation Independence	► 72% of respondents drive themselves for daily activities, such as shopping or medical appointments. (*Community Survey*) ► Reliance on others for transportation is common, with 24% occasionally depending on others and 20% frequently relying on family or friends. (*Community Survey, Focus Groups*) ► Loss of driving ability is a major concern, with 33% of respondents unsure or worried about having future transportation options. (*Community Survey*)	► Develop reliable alternatives for non-drivers, such as expanded transit services or volunteer ride programs. ► Support transportation independence by improving accessibility to cars (e.g., financial aid for car repairs or gas).

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Transportation Availability	▶ Nearly half of older adults in Yuba (49%) and Sutter (50%) view transportation availability as a moderate or major concern. Public transit use is low, with many reliant on personal vehicles. *(Data Map, Focus Groups)*	▶ Invest in affordable and accessible public transportation to reduce reliance on personal vehicles and improve mobility.
Public Transit and Specialized Services	▶ 67% of respondents never use public transit, and 77% never use specialized transportation for older adults or disabled individuals. (*Community Survey*) ▶ Barriers include limited bus routes, infrequent service, and accessibility issues for people with disabilities. (*Focus Groups*) ▶ Lack of after-hours and weekend services creates additional challenges, particularly in rural areas. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Expand bus routes and paratransit availability, especially in rural areas and during weekends/evenings. ▶ Improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities by upgrading buses and training staff.
Transportation Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities	▶ Public transit is often inaccessible for individuals with disabilities, particularly those using wheelchairs or with visual impairments. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Upgrade transit systems to ensure accessibility for all, including adding wheelchair lifts and clearer/braille signage.

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	▶ Poorly trained transit staff and unsafe conditions on public transportation further hinder use by disabled riders. (*Focus Groups*) ▶ Limited paratransit services fail to meet the needs of many individuals, especially in rural areas. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Train transit staff on disability awareness and support. ▶ Expand paratransit services and improve their reliability for rural and underserved areas.
Language and Accessibility Barriers	▶ Language barriers, particularly for Hmong-speaking residents, limit transit access and understanding. (*Focus Groups*) ▶ Transit systems are often difficult to navigate for older adults and individuals with disabilities. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Develop multilingual transit materials and onboard assistance. ▶ Train transit staff to address the needs of diverse riders, including older adults and individuals with disabilities.
Transportation and Safety Concerns	▶ Safety concerns on public transit include inadequate lighting, unclean conditions, and reports of bullying or aggression toward vulnerable riders. (*Focus Groups*) ▶ Poorly maintained transit stops, including uneven surfaces and lack of shelters, deter use by vulnerable populations. (*Focus Groups, Community Survey*)	▶ Improve lighting and cleanliness at transit stops to enhance safety and comfort. ▶ Address bullying and harassment on public transportation by increasing security measures and training transit workers. ▶ Upgrade transit stops with accessible shelters, seating, and smooth pathways.

Key Themes	Data Findings (Needs/Challenges)	Insights (Possible Solutions)
Transportation Cost and Financial Strain	▶ Rising costs of gas, vehicle maintenance, and public transit fares create financial strain, particularly for low-income residents. (*Focus Groups*) ▶ Dependence on personal vehicles is unsustainable for many due to repair and insurance expenses. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Offer financial aid for vehicle maintenance and gas for low-income individuals. ▶ Address inequities in cost between fixed/micro-transit routes and dial-a-ride services.
Rural Transportation Challenges	▶ Rural residents face significant barriers, such as long distances, few transportation options, and reliance on community support. (*Focus Groups*) ▶ Existing rural transportation programs, like Mountain Transportation, lack funding and volunteers. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Invest in funding for rural transportation initiatives and recruit volunteers to sustain programs. ▶ Establish ride-share or community-based solutions tailored for rural areas.
Rideshare and Taxi Challenges	▶ 87% of respondents never use taxis, and 79% never use ride-sharing services like Uber or Lyft, citing cost and rural limitations. (*Community Survey*) ▶ Lack of drivers in rural areas and accessibility challenges deter use of rideshares by people with disabilities. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Subsidize ride-sharing services for low-income or disabled residents. ▶ Partner with ride-share providers to improve rural coverage and accessibility.

Key Themes	Data Findings (Needs/Challenges)	Insights (Possible Solutions)
Community Mobility Themes		
Community Safety and Accessibility	▶ Personal safety concerns include reckless drivers, loose dogs, and unsafe intersections. (*Focus Groups, Community Survey*) ▶ 31% of survey respondents sometimes feel unsafe in their communities. (*Community Survey*) ▶ Parks and public spaces are often inaccessible due to uneven grounds and debris. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Enhance safety in public spaces by improving infrastructure and addressing community concerns. ▶ Increase visibility and accessibility through better lighting, maintenance, and community oversight.
Walkability and Infrastructure	▶ 34% of survey respondents rated sidewalk conditions as poor, and only 22% rated them as good or very good. (*Community Survey*) ▶ Most of Yuba and Sutter Counties lack pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, except for Marysville and Yuba City. (*Data Map*) ▶ Safety concerns include poor lighting, debris on sidewalks, and lack of	▶ Repair and expand sidewalks, ensuring they meet accessibility standards. ▶ Add more lighting, crosswalks, and safety features to pedestrian areas.

Key Themes	Data Findings (Needs/Challenges)	Insights (Possible Solutions)
	crosswalks and curb cuts. (*Focus Groups, Community Survey*)	
Parking Accessibility	▶ While 28% rated parking availability as good or very good, 24% rated it as poor, highlighting accessibility gaps, especially in handicapped parking spaces. (*Community Survey*) ▶ Poorly designed or insufficient handicapped parking spaces deter participation in community activities for individuals with mobility challenges. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Expand the number of handicapped parking spaces and enforce accessibility regulations. ▶ Improve signage and design for handicapped parking to ensure safety and usability. ▶ Invest in better parking infrastructure, particularly in public and recreational areas.
Public Restrooms and Benches Availability	▶ 47% of respondents rated public restroom availability as poor, indicating a significant gap in accessible facilities. (*Community Survey*) ▶ 36% rated bench availability as poor, further limiting accessibility and comfort in public spaces, particularly for those with mobility issues. (*Community Survey*)	▶ Install more accessible public restrooms in key community areas, ensuring ADA compliance and proper maintenance. ▶ Increase the number of benches along sidewalks, in parks, and at transit stops to support mobility-challenged individuals. ▶ Enhance restroom accessibility in the local community.

Key Themes	Data Findings (Needs/Challenges)	Insights (Possible Solutions)
Cyclist Accessibility	▶ 66% of respondents never bike, and 37% never walk, often due to unsafe paths and narrow roads. (*Community Survey*) ▶ Cyclists face risks from poor road conditions, limited bike lanes, and traffic congestion. (*Focus Groups*)	▶ Build dedicated bike lanes and widen roads to accommodate cyclists. ▶ Implement community cycling programs to encourage active transportation.