

JOSE SANCHEZ BARAJAS

ASSISTANT PLANNER



OBJECTIVE

A mission-oriented planning professional with a background in transit operations, mobility outreach, client services, and interdepartmental coordination. Committed to advancing equitable, accessible, and sustainable transportation systems through research, policy engagement, and stakeholder collaboration.

EXPERIENCE

2024 – Present

Assistant Planner, Monterey-Salinas Transit District

Support MST's planning efforts through research, data analysis, and interdepartmental coordination. Monitor local and regional policy activities, conduct field reviews, and contribute to planning documents and public comment letters. Conduct stop-level field surveys using GIS tools to document bus stop infrastructure, assess ADA compliance, and identify site conditions relevant to safety and service planning.

2021 – 2024

Communication Systems Specialist, Monterey-Salinas Transit District

Led real-time communication and operations support using CAD/AVL technologies. Coordinated emergency responses, ensured service reliability, and scheduled personnel in compliance with union rules via HASTUS.

2019 – 2021

Mobility Specialist, Monterey-Salinas Transit District

Facilitated community outreach and education for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities across MST's service area. Oversaw the MST Navigators volunteer program, expanded engagement efforts, and delivered presentations on transit access and ADA services.

EDUCATION

Cal Poly Humboldt

Arcata

California

Ethnic Studies, Bachelor of Arts

KEY SKILLS

- TRANSIT PLANNING & POLICY RESEARCH
- STAKE HOLDER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- PUBLIC COMMENT WRITING & EDITING
- FIELD SURVEYS AND STOP-LEVEL ANALYSIS
- OPERATIONS SOFTWARE: HASTUS, CAD/AVL
- PLAN EVALUATION
- MICROSOFT OFFICE SUITE (EXCEL, WORD, OUTLOOK)
- PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

CERTIFICATIONS

- TRANSPORTATION PLANING PROCESS

2016 – 2019

Community Support Facilitator II, Hope Services Inc.

Provided one-on-one and group support to adults with disabilities in community and classroom settings based on individualized service plans (ISPs). Served in multiple leadership roles, including Fleet Administrator, Safety Rep, and Media Lead.

2015 – 2016

Volunteer Coordinator, Loaves, Fishes, & Computers

Recruited, trained, and scheduled volunteers to support digital inclusion programs. Developed weekly volunteer workflows and supported organizational goals through program planning and coordination.

2013– 2015

Bakery Senior Clerk, Baker—Barista, North Coast Co-Op

Delivered excellent customer service while leading bakery operations and quality assurance for from scratch-made goods. Supported bakery team and upheld cleanliness protocols, preparation procedures, and inventory management.

2012 – 2013

Cashier—Courtesy Clerk, North Coast Co-Op

Served as a frontline team member answering product questions, assisting shoppers, and promoting Co-op membership benefits with professionalism and customer-first focus.

2008 – 2012

Cashier—Food Prep, Dons Donuts Pizza, and Deli

Balanced customer service with back-of-house prep responsibilities to maintain fast-paced food operations. Supported kitchen staff and ensured product quality in a high-traffic setting.

2010 – 2011

Latino Peer Mentor, Cal Poly Humboldt

Co-taught a first-year success course for Latino/a students, introducing them to academic resources and university culture. Helped build a supportive learning environment rooted in mentorship and empowerment.

- INTRODUCTION TO TRANSIT SERVICE PLANNING
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR TRANSIT PROFESSIONALS
- ADVANCED TRAVEL TRAINING STRATEGIES
- ADA COMPLIANCE TRAINING

PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS

POLICY & REGULATORY AWARENESS

Monitor planning commission and city council agendas to track policy developments affecting transit and land use. Report on housing elements and regional planning initiatives to ensure MST’s interests are reflected in local decision-making. Draft public comment letters addressing transportation, equity, and regulatory compliance to help shape a more accessible and sustainable built environment through informed advocacy and internal guidance.

PLANNING SUPPORT & COORDINATION

Work across internal departments and partner agencies to help align transit services with infrastructure improvements, safety planning, and community needs. Translate technical documents, staff reports, and project proposals into actionable recommendations that support MST’s strategic goals and contribute to accurate, timely planning communications.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

