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Letters to the Editor

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Senior transit must be addressed

Re "Personal transit services respond to region's need" (Page A1, Aug. 18): Thank you for your attention to transportation services for older adults in the Sacramento region.

As part of a research project at the Sacramento-based Center for Civic Partnerships, we emphasize the imperative to plan for increasing numbers of older adults in our communities. Mobility and transportation are but a few of the important areas that we must consider as a community. Housing, employment, community involvement, lifelong learning and support services are areas that need to be reviewed and considered for city planning. Locally, the city of Citrus Heights has done just that by working to create safer sidewalks as part of the center's California Healthy Cities and Communities (CHCC) program.

In our experience with cities that have conducted surveys addressing future needs of their older residents, the results are the same: Most people will depend on family and friends for rides. Will families and friends be able to help? We must look at how neighborhoods are designed. Are our streets walkable and safe? Maybe instead of depending on the automobile, we should consider creating easier modes of pedestrian travel.

Our local governments are navigating the rough waters of fiscal uncertainty. However, these demographic numbers are hard and fast approaching.

- Joan Twiss, Sacramento