

CTC APPROVES FUNDING FOR LIVINGSTON PROJECT

In March, the California Transportation Commission approved funding for the construction for the Livingston Northbound State Route 99 Median Widening project. This project was first initiated by a \$100,000 Project Study Report, which was facilitated by MCAAG and funded by the County of Merced and the City of Livingston.



This \$37 million project will widen the Northbound State Route 99 to three lanes, for 9.1 miles from south of Hammatt Avenue in Livingston to the Merced/Stanislaus county Line. The widening project will reduce congestion, improve goods movement, and eliminate a bottleneck condition where SR-99 is already three lanes to the immediate north and south of the project. Construction for the Livingston Median Widening Project is scheduled to break ground this summer. The complementary Southbound Widening project is scheduled to receive construction funding in early 2022 and begin construction later that same year.

The project is funded by Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, as part of the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program and is a partnership between the State of California and Merced County Association of Governments, which is contributing \$5.5 million of regional transportation funding.



YARTS RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE AIR BOARD FOR FARE PROGRAM



The California Air Resources Board recognized the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System's (YARTS) 2018 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) in the California Climate Investments 2019 Annual Report. The annual California Climate Investments report details how cap-and-trade investments are reducing climate-changing emissions while pumping money into local economies and improving public health and the environment across the state, especially in disadvantaged and low-income communities. Funded projects have achieved the overall goal of California Climate Investments by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 36.5 million metric tons, roughly equivalent to taking eight million cars off the road for a year.

YARTS successfully used LCTOP grant funds to implement its 'Reduced and Free YARTS to Yosemite' program in 2018 funded through the LCTOP grant. The program allowed for YARTS to provide free and significantly reduced tickets to Yosemite to residents of Merced and Mariposa County.

In total, YARTS provided over 500 adult reduced round trips and 850 child trips from Merced County, and over 2,800 free round trips from Mariposa County, to Yosemite. The ridership also experienced a significant increase in low-income populations as a result of the program.

YARTS will participate in the LCTOP program again, starting July 1, 2019. For more about the free fare program and YARTS schedules information visit: www.yarts.com

MAY MEETINGS & EVENTS:

05/01-05/05 Merced County Spring Fair, Los Banos

05/02 Bike to Work Day, For more info visit:
www.mercedbicyclecoalition.org

05/03 CAC Meeting, 8:30 am, MCAG Office

05/04 Mercy's 5K Stroke Awareness Run, Mercy Medical Center, For more info visit:
www.supportmercymerced.org/news--events

05/08 Technical Review Board meeting, City of Livingston

05/11 Livingston's Splash of Color 5K, Livingston Middle School, For more info call: 209.394.8830 or visit
www.livingstoncity.com/

05/16 Governing Board meeting, City of Merced

For more information about these events, or if your City or community has public events you would like published in our newsletter, contact Eva Garibay at:
eva.garibay@mcagov.org

THE BUS TO ATTEND THE MERCED COUNTY SPRING FAIR IN LOS BANOS!

The Bus will participate in the Merced County Spring Fair in Los Banos hosting an information booth to provide local residents with information about the Dial-A-Ride program in the City of Los Banos, as well as information about transit service throughout Merced County.

The Bus will help local residents and families enjoy the Spring Fair by offering free transit service within the City of Los Banos during the week of the fair!

In addition, The Bus is promoting alternative transportation options by giving away a free bike! To learn how to enter the drawing visit The Bus booth in the commercial building.

For more information about The Bus, please visit www.mercedthebus.com or call (209) 723-3100.



GRAY BLUE GREEN *What does it mean?*

MERCED COUNTY RWA
REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY 209-723-4481 ext. 224
www.mercedrecycles.com

GRAY CART
FOR GENERAL WASTE

ACCEPTS:
Trash
Food Waste
Household Garbage
Non-recyclable Items
Soiled, Dirty Items

Materials inside trash cans go into our local landfill.

BLUE CART
FOR ACCEPTABLE RECYCLABLES

ACCEPTS:
CARDBOARD
Flattened boxes
PAPER
Mail, newspaper
PLASTIC
Empty bottles/jugs
METAL
Empty soda/food cans
GLASS
Empty bottles/jars

Recyclables from blue carts are accepted at a discounted rate and sent to a recycling facility. They are then sorted and sent to manufacturers to be made into new products. (Contaminants that can't be recycled are landfilled out-of-county; please put only acceptable recyclables into the blue cart.)

GREEN CART
FOR YARD TRIMMING MATERIALS

ACCEPTS:
Brush
Grass Clippings
Leaves
Prunings
(Note: the container's lid must close)

NO Oleander NO Palm
Oleander/palm go into the trash.

Clean, uncontaminated yard trimming material is made into compost for application in orchards, on farmland/gardens and on side slopes of the local landfills. (This material is accepted at the landfill at a discounted rate from the trash rate; contaminated loads are landfilled.)

* Please keep recyclables and yard materials loose inside their carts, not bagged. Recyclables inside of bags won't be processed at the recycling facility. Bags also contaminate green cart material.



As a reminder, the Merced County Regional Waste Authority Highway 59 and Billy Wright landfills are open every Saturday from 7:00 am to Noon. In addition, both landfill locations have extended hours until 3:30 pm during the first Saturday of the month and on any Saturday following a closed holiday. For more information please visit: www.mcrwma.org

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

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HIGHWAY 59 LANDFILL
7040 N Highway 59
Merced, CA 95348
Phone: 209-723-4481

BILLY WRIGHT LANDFILL
17173 S Billy Wright Road
Los Banos, CA 95348
Phone: 209-826-1163

Monday - Friday:
7:00 am - 3:30 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - Noon

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8:00 am - 3:30 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - Noon

May 4, 2019 (1st Saturday):
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

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Measure V

MAY 2019—UPDATE

Measure V, Merced County's ½ cent transportation sales tax, was passed by Merced County voters with 71% approval in November 2016. In an effort to keep the community informed about this transformative measure, MCAG will feature monthly updates in this newsletter. You can also visit www.mcagov.org/measurev for the latest!

This past month, the first Measure V annual report titled 'On the moVe' was presented to the community at an Open House hosted by MCAG in partnership with the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee.

The 30-year Measure, which commenced in April of 2017, allocates 50% of all its revenue to the cities of Merced, Los Banos, Gustine, Atwater, Livingston and Dos Palos, along with the County of Merced, to pay for local transportation projects including roads, bike paths, and sidewalks. Regional transportation projects located on both the east and west sides of the county receive 44% of the funding with five percent reserved for public transit purposes. MCAG receives one percent of the monies to administer all fiduciary and reporting requirements.

The report indicates that the \$20.6 million in audited Measure V revenues were dispersed according to the formula in the 2016 Transportation Expenditure Plan passed by the voters. There was \$3 million in audited expenditures during the same time period which was between April 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, the end of the fiscal year.

So far, in its second year of existence, Measure V work has included the adoption of a two-year Implementation Plan to spend the \$9.1 million set aside for east and west side regional transportation projects, as well as the \$1 million for public transit programs.

The Transit Joint Powers Authority Board initiated The Bus's free fare program - paid for by Measure V funds - in July 2017. Since then, 166,445 free bus rides have been given to seniors, veterans, and ADA eligible passengers on fixed routes throughout the county. The program has caused ridership on The Bus to increase by seven percent overall.

To view a digital copy of the annual report visit: www.mcagov.org/measurev

HAVE YOU SPOTTED MEASURE V AT WORK IN MERCED COUNTY?

Snap a picture and send it to measurev@mcagov.org or tag us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @mcag_merced or #Measurev_mcag



CONTACT:

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