

SEPTEMBER 2015

MCAG Governing Board supports “Fix Our Roads” coalition

In June, Governor Brown called a legislative special session called “Fixing California Roads, Highways and Other Infrastructure” and proposed that the legislature enact permanent and sustainable funding to maintain and repair the state’s transportation system. As the conversation in Sacramento developed around how to address the state’s transportation funding and infrastructure needs, a coalition representing local government, business, labor, and transportation formed around common principles to advocate for increased funding for transportation during the special session. This “Fix Our Roads” coalition includes the League of California Cities, California Alliance for Jobs, California Association of Counties, and many others.

Last month, the MCAG Governing Board voted to support the coalition’s seven core principles for the Legislature to consider as they debate policies and funding sources for transportation. The seven principles are:

- Make a significant investment in transportation infrastructure
- Focus on maintaining and rehabilitating the current system
- Invest a portion of diesel tax and/or cap & trade revenue to high-priority goods movement projects
- Raise revenues across a broad range of options
- Equal split between state and local projects
- Strong accountability requirements to protect the taxpayers’ investment
- Provide consistent annual funding levels

For more information about these principles and the “Fix Our Roads” coalition, visit fixcaroads.com.



Alternative Planning Strategy Update

Last month, MCAG’s Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) Steering Committee adopted nine policy recommendations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by offering a wide-range of accessible transportation alternatives throughout Merced County. Click [HERE](#) to view the recommendations. Additionally, following the recommendation of the committee, the MCAG Governing Board voted to pursue an amendment to the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that meets the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, rather than continue with the development of an APS.

In March 2015, the MCAG Governing Board appointed 13 community organizations and regional partners to the APS Steering Committee for the purpose of providing guidance in the development of an APS. California law requires every region in the state to prepare a strategy that demonstrates how the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2035, as set by the state, can be met by reducing vehicle miles traveled through alternative development patterns, alternative transportation infrastructure, and/or additional transportation measures and policies.

For more information about this process, or the work of the committee, please visit www.mcagov.org/230 or contact Matt Fell, Transportation Manager at matt.fell@mcagov.org or (209)723-3153 x 320.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS!

Technical Planning Committee Meeting - Sept 3, 2015

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting - Sept 4, 2015

APS Steering Committee Meeting - Sept 4, 2015

Labor Day Holiday/Office Closed - Sept 7, 2015

Technical Review Board Meeting - Sept 9, 2015

Governing Board Meeting - Sept 17, 2015

[View MCAG Calendar](#) for meeting details and locations.

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San Joaquin Valley Fall Policy Conference draft agenda now available!

Speakers and panel discussion topics for the 11th Annual San Joaquin Valley Fall Policy Conference are now available, [HERE](#). Under the conference theme “Transportation Today, Transportation Tomorrow,” this year’s lineup includes UC Merced Chancellor Dorothy Leland, generational expert Phil Gwoke with Bridge-works, and Randall Winston, the new executive director of the Strategic Growth Council.

The Fall Policy Conference will be held October 7-8, 2015 at the Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite in Fish Camp, CA. To register for the conference and for more information, please visit www.sjvcogs.org or contact Stacie Dabbs at (209)723-3153 x 308. Sponsorship opportunities are available!