



**MCAG BOARD ADOPTS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN &
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

The MCAG Governing Board adopted the 2018 Merced County Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) at the August Governing Board meeting. The RTP/SCS was a collaborative effort between MCAG, the County of Merced, and the cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos and Merced and serves as the blueprint for investments in roads, freeways, public transit, bike trails and other ways people move around the county over the next 25 years.

Over the past year MCAG staff worked to prepare the 2018 update to the RTP to address current regional goals and priorities for our growing and evolving communities. Ultimately, the RTP seeks to ensure that the Merced County transportation system will continue to operate efficiently with sufficient capacity to meet demand and that mobility options are available for all of Merced County’s residents. Growth in Merced County is expected to be driven in part by lower housing costs relative to neighboring regions, with people choosing longer commutes in exchange for affordability. While agribusiness is expected to continue as the leading job provider in the county, health care and service jobs are also on the rise.

The RTP includes comprehensive improvements to the regional and local transportation networks, referred to as the Tier I Project List and focuses on infill development in downtowns and centers in close proximity to jobs and services. In addition, the RTP emphasizes transportation investments in active transportation facilities to improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

The goals for the 2018 RTP/SCS were established to meet the regulatory requirements of the FAST Act, the Clean Air Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, SB 375, the California Complete Streets Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act. They were tailored specifically to the unique needs of Merced County and the feedback that was received from the public during the

(RTP/SCS Continued)

planning process. This RTP was developed in accordance with state and federal requirements, including the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB 375), which is intended to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, and the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), which requires a performance-based approach to the Plan’s development.

For more information please visit the project website www.mercedregionalvision.com or the Merced County Association Of Governments website www.mcagov.org

**YARTS OFFERING REDUCED FARE TO ALL
MERCED COUNTY RESIDENTS**

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) announced recently that it will offer reduced round-trip fares to Yosemite National Park starting, August 15, 2018 for all Merced County residents. Passengers can purchase their tickets at The Bus/ YARTS Administration Office, 1810 K Street, Merced at the following rates:

Adults	\$5.00
Children 13-17	\$2.50
Children 12 and under	Free

“We are excited to offer the reduced fare service to Merced County residents,” said Assistant Transit Manager, Cindy Kelly. “We hope to encourage people who’ve never ridden YARTS to give it a try, and experience our nation’s jewel without adding to the congestion problem.” This reduced fare program is made possible through the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). LCTOP is provided to transit agencies to improve mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The grant will fund reduced fares through June 30, 2019.

For more information about YARTS or the seasonal schedules, please visit the YARTS website www.yarts.com or call (877)989-2787.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS:

MCAG

- 09/03** Labor Day—all MCAG offices closed
- 09/07** Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, MCAG
- 09/19** Technical Review Board, County Admin Bldg.
- 09/20** Governing Board meeting, Gustine
- 09/08** Run for Hue-Manity, Merced County Fairgrounds
For more info call: 209.626.5660
- 09/08** UC Merced Journey 5k—A Run for Ryan,
For more info visit: [UC Merced Giving](#)
- 09/22** Dash out for Cancer 5K, 3303 M Street Merced, For
more info call: 209.726.3410

ATWATER

- 09/15** Amigos Unidos Golf Tournament, Rancho Del Rey
Gold Club, For more info call: 209.384.9537

LIVINGSTON

- 9/21-23** Sweet Potato Festival - Sports Complex
For more information call: 209-394-8830

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@mcaq.gov



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

To receive text and/or email notifications from MCAG related to public meetings, traffic alerts, RFP releases, job opportunities, and more, visit www.mcaq.gov and click on the "Notify Me" icon. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube!



First Ride Free Program Available for Business Travelers using Morning Express!

In May 2018, Amtrak San Joaquins launched a "Morning Express Service" that reconfigures its schedule to bring riders throughout the San Joaquin Valley from as far south as Fresno to the state capital by 8:00AM.

Changing a morning routine can be daunting, Amtrak San Joaquins understands that. To show you that the Morning Express service is right for you, the San Joaquins is offering the first ride free. This is your chance to test the service for yourself, beat the traffic, and relax before work, all at no cost to you.

To book your first ride on the Amtrak San Joaquins Morning Express train, visit www.morningexpresstrain.com to fill out a simple form and apply for our "First Ride Free" program.

Tickets for the Morning Express service can be booked now at AmtrakSanJoaquins.com, or by calling 1-800-USA-Rail or on the Amtrak App.

In addition to the Multi-ride passes available, additional everyday discounts listed at:

amtrak.com/california-everyday-discounts.

AMTRAK SAN JOAQUINS

SACRAMENTO MORNING EXPRESS

FIRST RIDE FREE!

GET FROM THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY TO SACRAMENTO BEFORE 8AM

VISIT

MORNINGEXPRESSTRAIN.COM

TO FILL OUT A QUICK, EASY APPLICATION AND GET

#ONTRACKTOSAC

AMTRAKSANJOAQUINS.COM | 1-800-USA-RAIL

Measure V

SEPTEMBER 2018 - UPDATE

Measure V, Merced County's ½ cent transportation sales tax, was passed by Merced County voters with 71% approval in November 2016 and went into effect April 1, 2017. 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.measurev-mcag.com for the latest!

Revenue Update

Measure V was projected to generate an estimated \$18.7 million over the past fifteen months. To date, Measure V has exceeded projections by \$1.9 million from April 2017 through June 2018, totaling \$20.6 million.

Regional Projects Revenue

To date, more than **\$9 million** has been received for regional projects which are projects located in or directly benefiting more than one jurisdiction. This funding is allocated to two accounts – 27% to eastside and 17% to Westside of the San Joaquin River. Projects eligible for this regional funding are being identified and prioritized by the Eastside and Westside Regional Projects Committees. For more information about this process and committees, please visit www.measurev-mcag.com/regional-projects.html.

Local Projects Revenue

Per the expenditure plan, 50% of the revenue is allocated directly to the 6 cities and the County of Merced. This funding is being used to address local transportation needs such as repairing potholes and bridges, repaving streets, replacing traffic signals and improving sidewalks and bicycle facilities. To date, **\$10.3 million** has been allocated directly to local jurisdictions:

City of Merced	\$2,159,696	City of Dos Palos	\$323,023
City of Atwater	\$848,319	City of Los Banos	\$1,080,503
City of Livingston	\$488,556	County of Merced	\$5,109,059
City of Gustine	\$324,035		

Visit www.measurev-mcag.com/local-projects.html to check out the list of Measure V projects by jurisdiction.

Transit Revenue

5% of the annual measure revenue is dedicated to Transit. Currently, a portion of these funds are currently being used to provide free fares on The Bus's fixed route system for seniors, veterans and ADA eligible individuals with disabilities. In the first seven months of the program, more than **166,445 free rides** have been provided by the program. For more information, contact The Bus at (209)723-3100.

Administration Revenue

MCAG receives 1% for the administration of Measure V for staffing, auditing and oversight. To date, MCAG has received **\$206,664**.



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 @mcag.merced or Twitter #MercedCAG

FIXING OUR ROADS!

Stacie Dabbs at 723.3153 x 109

stacie.dabbs@mcagov.org