

MERCED COUNTY

½ Cent Sales Tax Transportation Expenditure Plan

The Problem

Our region is facing a serious funding shortfall. We are unable to maintain our streets, roads, bridges, sidewalks and other critical components of our region's transportation infrastructure. As state and federal funding continue to decline and our local and regional transportation systems continue to deteriorate, additional revenue is needed to not only maintain the current system but also expand to meet the needs of our growing population.

\$380 million

amount needed to **maintain** our local streets and roads through 2040

\$1.1 billion

amount needed to **expand** our regional roads and highways through 2040

\$450 million

amount of **new revenue** the proposed sales tax is projected to generate over 30 years

The Solution

If approved by voters in November 2016, a half-cent sales tax could generate more than \$450 million in new revenue to address our transportation needs over the next three decades. The proposed Transportation Expenditure Plan outlines a flexible approach to spending these funds, providing transportation funding directly to our local governments and setting aside funding for projects of regional benefit along our highways and regionally significant corridors.

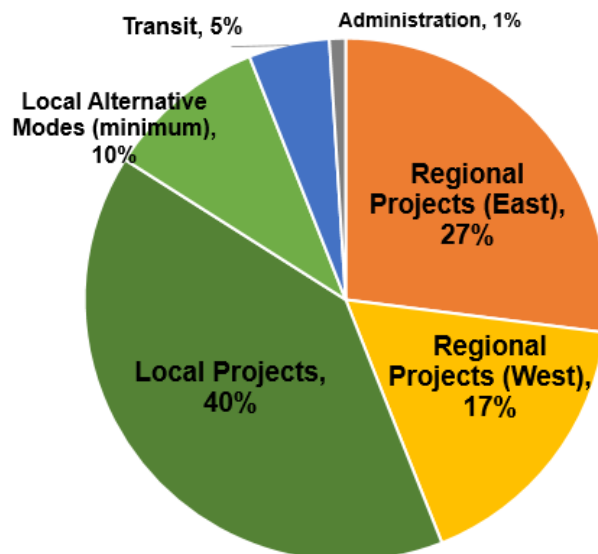
Who developed the Transportation Expenditure Plan?

The Plan is the product of a collaborative process involving a broad range of engaged stakeholders from throughout the county. The 24-member committee was comprised of representatives from the Cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos, and Merced, the County of Merced, and a wide variety of community stakeholders representing diverse interests from across the county.

Where will the money go?

The proposed transportation sales tax is estimated to generate \$15 million annually, to be allocated to the following categories:

- **Regional Projects**
- **Local Projects and Alternative Modes**
- **Transit**
- **Administration**



Local Shares	Annual Amount	30 Year Total
Atwater	\$615,763	\$18 million
Dos Palos	\$244,816	\$7 million
Gustine	\$246,594	\$7 million
Livingston	\$368,040	\$11 million
Los Banos	\$767,143	\$23 million
Merced	\$1,554,461	\$47 million
County	\$3,703,183	\$111 million
Regional Shares	Annual Amount	30 Year Total
Regional Projects – Eastside	\$4,050,000	\$122 million
Regional Projects – Westside	\$2,550,000	\$77 million
Transit	\$750,000	\$23 million

Regional Projects: 44% of the total annual revenue will be dedicated to regional projects located in or directly benefiting more than one jurisdiction in Merced County. With the San Joaquin River serving as the geographic boundary, 27% of these funds will be dedicated to projects on the eastside of the county, while 17% will fund projects on the westside. Examples of regional projects include but are not limited to: **improving highways and freeways, investing in passenger rail and supporting vanpools and other ridesharing programs.**

Local Projects & Alternative Modes: 50% of the total annual revenue will be allocated directly to local jurisdictions based their share of the County’s population and maintained road miles. This funding will give local jurisdictions the flexibility to address local transportation needs including but not limited to: **repairing potholes and bridges, repaving streets, replacing traffic signals and improving sidewalks and bicycle facilities.**

As local jurisdictions invest these funds into their communities, at least 20% of the local funds received must be used for Alternative Modes projects. The goal of this requirement is to provide safe alternatives to automobile travel such as biking, walking and passenger rail. Examples of such projects include but are not limited to: **sidewalks, crosswalks, safe routes to schools, curb ramps, bicycle projects, railroad crossing safety improvements, ridesharing programs, and other air quality improvement projects.**

Transit: 5% of the annual revenue will be dedicated to improving The Bus – our region’s county-wide public transit system. These funds may be used to enhance and expand transit services and programs including bus shelters, fare reductions, and improved services for seniors, the disabled and veterans.

Administration: 1% of the annual revenue will be allocated to Merced County Association of Governments for administrative responsibilities including administering a citizens’ oversight committee, preparing annual reports and contracting for annual independent audits.

