

YARTS ANNOUNCES FREE SERVICE DAYS FOR 2018

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) announced this month that it will offer free transit service days to Yosemite National Park on 10 days in 2018. YARTS has received funding through the Federal Lands Access Program for a three-year demonstration project to operate free buses to Yosemite up to 10 times per year on all. The grant will fund thirty free service days through September 2020. See the schedule below for the 2018 free service days:

- **January 15:** Hwy 140 – Only
- **April 21 & 22:** Hwy 140 – Only
- **May 27 & 28:** Hwy 140, 120, 41 and 395/120* (if Tioga Road is open)
- **July 4:** Hwy 140, 41, 120 and 395/120
- **August 25:** Hwy 140, 41, 120 and 395/120
- **September 22:** Hwy 140, 41, 120 and 395/120
- **November 10 & 11:** HWY 140 – Only

Passengers are encouraged to arrive at least one hour prior to the scheduled departure times to wait in line for a seat as seating is limited. Boarding will be based on first-come, first-served and no reservations will be accepted.

YARTS is the only public transit to Yosemite National Park, with buses entering Yosemite Valley from Merced, Mammoth Lakes, Sonora and Fresno---as well as many different towns along the way. YARTS began service in May 2000, and now provides an alternative to driving to over 120,000 riders per year. For more information about YARTS or the seasonal schedules, please visit www.yarts.com or call (877)989-2787.



2018 ANNA MARIA FUENTES SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) is accepting applications for the 2018 Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship.

The MCAG Governing Board established the Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship Program in October of 2010 in memory and tribute to Anna Maria Fuentes, Grants Program Manager, colleague, and friend. To date, eight scholarship awardees have been selected, each receiving up to four years of scholarship funds in the amount of \$1,000 annually.

Although MCAG employees have contributed most of the scholarship funds received so far, donations from individuals and businesses are welcomed and encouraged. Donations made to the scholarship program are tax deductible.

The Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior in Merced County with a grade point average of 3.8 or higher who has demonstrated a high level of participation in extra-curricular activities including positions of leadership. Applicants must also provide a personal essay that describes their need for scholarship in order to pursue higher education goals.

The 2018 scholarship recipient will receive \$1,000 and will be eligible to receive additional awards of \$1,000 each year for three years based on scholastic performance and documentation.

Applications can be mailed or dropped off at MCAG, 369 W 18th Street, Merced and must be received by 3:00pm on Monday, February 28, 2018. The selected scholarship recipient will be notified by May 1, 2018.

Interested applicants can access the scholarship application and instructions at www.mcagov.org/217/Scholarship.

General inquiries can be directed to Eva Garibay at eva.garibay@mcagov.org or 209-723-3153 x 108.





CALTRANS COMPLETES MEDIAN BARRIER PROJECT ON HWY 152

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) recently complete a \$3.3 million project installing a median barrier on State Route 152. The project spans 3.6 miles from two miles west of Los Banos from Vista Point Access Road to San Luis Dam Service Road near Dinosaur Point. This project will improve the safety and efficiency of the State Route 152 for motorists along the corridor.

In Merced County, State Route 152 is a designated Scenic Highway from the Santa Clara County line to Interstate 5. Along this segment of State Route 152, the highway meanders through rolling oak woodland terrain and runs adjacent to the San Luis Reservoir.

Construction began in August 2017 and was completed February 1, 2018. Caltrans would like to extend their appreciation to motorists and residents for their patience and cooperation during the construction of this project.

For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Slow For the Cone Zone. For more information, please contact Thomas.Lawrence@dot.ca.gov.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS & EVENTS:

MCAG

- 02/07** Measure V Regional Projects Committee Meetings, 10am in Atwater, 2pm in Dos Palos
- 02/14** Technical Review Board Meeting
- 02/15** Governing Board Meeting, City of Los Banos
- 02/19** MCAG offices closed; President's Day
- 02/28** Anna M. Fuentes Scholarship due at 3:00 pm

MERCED

- 02/09** State of the City; Merced Theater 301 Main St, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Free Admission
- 02/17** Parent Institute "Dream Big"; Golden Valley High 8:00 am, for more info: 209.381.6793 x6158
- 02/15** MCOE Annual Education Report, Yosemite Church 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, RSVP required 209.381.6601

LOS BANOS

- 02/16** MCOE Annual Education Report, LB Community Center 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, RSVP required 209.381.6601

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.qaribay@mca.gov



CALTRANS KICKS OFF SB 1 PROJECT IN MERCED COUNTY



The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) began a pavement improvement project on State Route 152 (SR 152) from Ward Road in Los Banos to the Merced/Madera County line thanks to the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1).



"Thanks to the passage of SB 1, Caltrans is able to accelerate the start of construction on several projects and complete the work earlier than anticipated," Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty said. "State Route 152 is a major 'farm-to-market' route and is vital for industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational purposes. Improving the pavement on this roadway is invaluable for the region and our state transportation system."

This project includes repairing and replacing various sections of the roadway, filling potholes and smoothing pavement on SR-152, which is a major commercial route. Work is scheduled during the daytime and will potentially include lane and ramp closures. Schedules are subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment and/or materials and construction related issues.

The \$2.8 million project has been awarded to FBD Vanguard Construction of Livermore. Work began on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 with completion expected in December 2018.

Due to the passage of SB 1, Caltrans broke ground on 13 pavement projects last summer and is expediting the design of an additional 50 projects that will break ground over the course of 2018.

SB 1 provides an ongoing funding increase of approximately \$1.8 billion annually for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the state highway system, and SB 1 funds will enable Caltrans to fix more than 17,000 lane miles of pavement, 500 bridges and 55,000 culverts by 2027.

Caltrans is committed to conducting its business in a fully transparent manner and detailing its progress to the public. For complete details on SB 1, visit:

www.rebuildingca.ca.gov/

Measure V

FEBRUARY 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 check out www.measurev-mcag.com for the latest news and updates!

Revenue Update

Measure V has generated \$6.8 million of revenue in the first 6 months of the 30 year measure. This is new revenue for the cities and county of Merced to address our local and regional transportation needs. Each month, this funding is allocated across four categories as prescribed in the expenditure plan.

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, \$3.4 million has been allocated directly to local jurisdictions. Visit www.measurev-mcag.com/local-projects.html to check out the list of Measure V projects by city and the County of Merced.

Regional Projects Revenue

To date, more than \$3 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.

Transit Revenue

The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County has received \$341,501 of revenue from Measure V in the first 6 months. 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. 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 \$68,300.



Measure V at work in the City of Merced.

HAVE YOU SPOTTED MEASURE V AT WORK IN MERCED COUNTY?

Snap a picture and send it to stacie.dabbs@mcagov.org or tag us on Facebook @mcag.merced or Twitter #MercedCAG



Measure V at work on Belcher Ave in Merced County.

FIXING OUR ROADS!

Stacie Dabbs at 723.3153 x 109

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