



Meeting Minutes

MCAG 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/
Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

Advisory Committee Meeting #2

Date: March 15, 2022

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.

Place: Zoom Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Advisory Committee Members: Wendy Campbell, Area Agency on Aging; Hilda Sousa, Caltrans; Christina Alley, Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing; Doug Dunford, City of Gustine/Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) Technical Review Board; Jami Westervelt, City of Gustine; Michael Hren, City of Merced; Stacy Souza, City of Los Banos; Nirorn Than, City of Los Banos; Miguel Galvez, City of Livingston; Michael Bodine, City of Merced Airport Authority Commission; Steve Maxey, County of Merced; Claudia Corchado, Cultiva la Salud; Linda Dash, Healthy House; Susan Walsh, League of Women Voters of Merced County; Josh Pedrozo, MCAG Board; Maddie Brown, MCAG Citizens Advisory Committee; Lisa Kayser-Grant, Merced Bicycle Coalition; Rene Gutierrez, San Joaquin Valley Rail Commission; Rod Webster, Sierra Club; Jose Perez, The Bus; Alvaro Arias; UC Merced; Manuel Alvarado, United Way; Jean Okuye, Valley Land Alliance

Merced County Association of Governments Staff and Consultants: Stacie Guzman, MCAG; Nav Bagri, MCAG; Mary-Michal Rawling, MCAG; Ty Phimmason, MCAG; Natalia Austin, MCAG; Mauricio Torres, MCAG; Blake Dunford, MCAG; Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, Inc. (VRPA); Richard Lee, VRPA; Hector Guerra, VRPA

Members of the Public: Nick Jensen

I. Introductions and Welcome

Georgiena Vivian, VRPA welcomed everyone and asked Hector Guerra to review Zoom webinar protocols. Stacie Guzman, MCAG Executive Director, welcomed all attendees and stated that she was appreciative that members of the Advisory Committee were continuing to dedicate their time to the 2022 RTP/SCS Update process. She further stated that it was important to receive input from a broad range of participants and stakeholders.

Hector Guerra, VRPA, then took roll call. Ms. Vivian asked if there were any objections to approving the February 1, 2022 meeting minutes and there were none.

II. RTP/SCS Schedule

Ms. Vivian stated that transportation modeling was underway, and that staff would present the alternative RTP/SCS scenarios to the Advisory Committee for review and comment at their next meeting in April. She then mentioned that staff will present a preferred scenario at the fourth meeting of the Advisory Committee in late April or early May.

III. Draft RTP/SCS Policy Element

Ms. Vivian provided an overview of the draft RTP/SCS Policy Element, which is under preparation. The Element identifies the major goals related to each of the various modes of transportation. Ms. Vivian reviewed the various modes including public transit, active transportation, passenger rail, goods movement, and highways, streets, and roads. Ms. Vivian also mentioned that the Policy Element will address the Sustainable Communities Strategy, environmental sustainability, and other related considerations. Ms. Vivian then asked Mr. Guerra to initiate polling of the Committee related to the Policy Element.

IV. Merced County Demographic Projections

Ms. Vivian reviewed a set of demographic slides and focused on population estimates. Ms. Vivian mentioned that the horizon year for the planning process is 2046 and that staff is in the process of developing demographic projections for that and other years.

V. Review 2018 RTP/SCS Scenarios & Land Use & Transportation Concepts

Ms. Vivian provided an overview of various land use and transportation concepts. Ms. Vivian stated that it was important to visually see how the urban and rural landscape can be improved to accommodate walking, biking and transit usage resulting in reduced trip making and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Vivian then asked Mr. Guerra to initiate the poll questions related to scenario development.

VI. 2018 RTP/SCS Project Evaluation Criteria

Ms. Vivian provided a review of project evaluation criteria that will be developed to evaluate and compare alternative scenarios. Ms. Vivian then asked Mr. Guerra to initiate the poll questions related to transportation improvements.

VII. Traffic Modeling Status

Ms. Vivian mentioned that the modeling should be complete by the end of March or early April. She stated that staff will use the modeling results to evaluate the scenarios and present the information to the Advisory Committee in April.

VIII. Outreach Update

Ms. Vivian stated that a virtual public workshop was held on March 8, 2022. She stated that polling was conducted and that a survey related to update of the RTP/SCS will be placed on MCAG's website in the near future. Ms. Vivian also stated that staff will conduct a second workshop once the alternative scenarios are available in late April. Finally, Ms. Vivian noted that scientific polling was planned related to the RTP/SCS update and the alternative scenarios.

IX. Next Steps

Ms. Vivian reviewed the next steps and stated that the Advisory Committee will review the scenarios in April. Ms. Vivian stated that staff will contact the Advisory Committee to identify two meeting dates in April or early May.

X. Public Comment

There was none.