



Meeting Minutes

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

Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Date: February 1, 2022

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 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; Dewayne Jones; City of Dos Palos; Doug Dunford, City of Gustine/MCAG Technical Review Board; Jami Westervelt, City of Gustine; Michael Hren, City of Merced; Michael Bodine, City of Merced Airport Authority Commission; Steve Maxey, County of Merced; Claudia Corchado, Cultiva la Salud; Linda Dash, Healthy House; Josh Pedrozo, MCAG Board; Maddie Brown, MCAG Citizens Advisory Committee; Lisa Kayser-Grant, Merced Bicycle Coalition; Breanne Vandenberg, Merced County Farm Bureau; 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 Phimmasone, MCAG; Natalia Austin, MCAG; Mauricio Torres, MCAG; Elizabeth Forte, Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG); Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, Inc. (VRPA); Richard Lee, VRPA; Hector Guerra, VRPA

I. Introductions and Welcome

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director, Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance and participation as part of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Guzman then asked the Project Team to introduce themselves. Hector Guerra, VRPA, then took roll call.

II. What is a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)?

Georgiena Vivian, VRPA, provided an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which included discussion on the purpose, requirements, contents, and development process. Ms. Vivian indicated that the RTP is a long-range vision and investment plan that provides a comprehensive look at future transportation needs in Merced County. Ms. Vivian added that Senate Bill (SB) 375 requires that an RTP also contain a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

III. What is a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)?

Ms. Vivian explained that SB 375 defines a SCS as “a forecasted development pattern for the region, which, when integrated with the transportation network, and other transportation measures and policies, will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from light trucks and cars, to achieve, if feasible, the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets approved by the Air Resource Board.” Ms. Vivian then went into additional detail on the SCS requirements, content, and development process.

IV. Purpose, Role, and Responsibilities of the RTP/SCS Advisory Committee

Ms. Vivian stated that the purpose of the Advisory Committee is to assist MCAG in developing the 2022 RTP/SCS for the Merced County region. Ms. Vivian then reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Committee, which will include providing review and input on products, documents, and presentations developed by the RTP/SCS Project Team. Committee members were also asked to participate, and encourage others to participate, in outreach events, meetings, and workshops with affected local agencies, stakeholders, and other interested and affected individuals in Merced County.

V. Public Engagement Plan

Mr. Guerra provided an overview of public engagement activities for the RTP/SCS development process. Mr. Guerra said that an initial public workshop for the RTP/SCS would be held in either late February or early March.

VI. Environmental Review Document

Ms. Vivian said that a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) would be prepared for the RTP/SCS. Ms. Vivian then described the PEIR development process, including environmental areas the PEIR will analyze, and RTP/SCS project alternatives that will be addressed in the PEIR.

VII. Project Schedule

Ms. Vivian reviewed the Project schedule, highlighting key tasks and timeframes for RTP/SCS deliverables.

VIII. Next Steps

It was agreed that the next Advisory Committee meeting would take place on March 1st at 3:00 pm. Ms. Vivian explained that the next meeting would likely include discussion on the goals and objectives of the RTP/SCS, and a detailed overview of the growth scenarios from the 2018 RTP/SCS development process so that Committee members could get a good sense of what those scenarios are addressing.

Claudia Corchado, Cultiva la Salud, asked what Committee’s role is between now and the next meeting. Ms. Vivian encouraged Committee members to review the 2018 RTP/SCS and become familiar with the contents of the document. Ms. Vivian also asked that Committee members speak with their constituents on what their transportation needs are, and to share this information with the Project Team.

IX. Public Comment

There was none.