

Project Description

The project, as defined pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 21065, is the preparation of the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). MCAG has the 2022 RTP/SCS as required by Section 65080 et seq., of Chapter 2.5 of the California Government Code, federal guidelines pursuant to new requirements established in the federal surface transportation reauthorization, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century” (MAP-21) and the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Acts, Transportation Conformity for the Air Quality Attainment Plan per 40 CFR Part 51 and 40 CFR Part 93, and requirements set forth in *Assembly Bill 32, The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006*, and *Senate Bill 375 The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008*. Finally, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has prepared guidelines (most recently adopted by the CTC on January 18, 2017) to assist in the preparation of the RTP/SCS.

The last comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the RTP was completed in July 2018, which addressed transportation improvement projects, programs, and funding reflected in the 2018 RTP/SCS.

The 2022 RTP/SCS addresses all transportation modes including motor vehicles, transit (commuter and local), rail (commuter and interregional), goods movement (rail freight and trucking), bicycle and pedestrian facilities, aviation systems, and transportation systems management (TSM) programs and projects considering the horizon year of 2046. In addition, the 2022 RTP/SCS:

- ✓ Identifies the region’s transportation goals, objectives, and policies
- ✓ Includes the SCS, which demonstrates how the region will meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target through integrated land use, and housing and transportation planning. *Once adopted by MCAG, the SCS becomes an integral part of the RTP*
- ✓ Sets forth an action plan of projects and programs to address the needs consistent with the Policy Element
- ✓ Documents the financial resources needed to implement the plan
- ✓ Reflects results of the Transportation Conformity Analysis
- ✓ Highlights the 2022 RTP/SCS EIR process and results
- ✓ Details the RTP/SCS public outreach process
- ✓ Includes the Environmental Justice analysis process