

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE  
DRAFT 2023 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,  
THE DRAFT 2022 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITY STRATEGY, CORRESPONDING DRAFT CONFORMITY ANALYSIS,  
AND  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) will hold a public hearing on July 21, 2022 at 3 p.m. at the Merced County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Council Chambers on the 3rd floor, at 2222 M Street, Merced, California, regarding the Draft 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (2023 FTIP), the Draft 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (2022 RTP/SCS), the corresponding Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2023 FTIP and 2022 RTP/SCS and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on these documents.

- The 2023 FTIP is a near-term listing of capital improvement and operational expenditures utilizing federal and state monies for transportation projects in Merced County during the next four years.
- The 2022 RTP/SCS is a long-term coordinated transportation/land use strategy to meet Merced County transportation needs out to the year 2046.
- The corresponding Conformity Analysis contains the documentation to support a finding that the 2023 FTIP and 2022 RTP/SCS meet the federal Clean Air Act air quality conformity requirements for ozone and particulate matter.
- The Draft EIR document provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts related to the implementation of the RTP/SCS as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

The public participation efforts for the 2023 FTIP satisfies the Program of Projects (POP) requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area Formula Program Section 5307 and Bus and Bus Facilities Program Section 5339. If no comments are received on the proposed POP, then the transit program (funded with FTA 5307 and FTA 5339 monies) will be the final program.

Individuals with disabilities may call MCAG (with 3-working-day advance notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate in the public hearing. Interpreting services are available (with 3-working-day advance notice) to participants speaking any language with available professional interpreting services.

A 55-day public review and comment period for the Draft 2022 RTP/SCS will commence on Friday, June 10, 2022 and conclude on August 4, 2022.

A 45-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIR will commence on June 20, 2022 and conclude on August 4, 2022.

A concurrent 30-day public review and comment period for the Draft 2023 FTIP and the corresponding Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2023 FTIP and 2022 RTP/SCS will commence on Friday, June 10, 2022 and conclude on July 11, 2022.

Based on the analysis presented in the Draft EIR, potentially significant and unavoidable direct and cumulative environmental impacts may occur to the following resources areas:

Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Climate Change, Cultural Resources & Tribal Cultural Resources, Energy and Energy Conservation, Geology/Soils/Mineral Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use, Planning, and Recreation, Noise and Vibration, Population, Housing, and Employment, Public Utilities, Other Utilities, and Services Systems, Transportation/Traffic, and Wildfire. Although the 2023 FTIP and the 2022 RTP/SCS include areas containing sites that are subject to Government Code 65962.5, neither the 2023 FTIP nor the 2022 RTP/SCS propose site-specific development of any of those locations.

The draft documents are available for review at the MCAG office, located at 369 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, California and on the MCAG website at [www.mcagov.org](http://www.mcagov.org).

Public comments are welcomed at the hearing, or may be submitted in writing by 5:00 P.M. on August 4, 2022 to Ty Phimmasone at the address below.

After considering the comments, the documents will be considered for adoption, by resolution, by the MCAG Governing Board at a regularly scheduled meeting to be held on August 18, 2022. The documents will then be submitted to state and federal agencies for approval.

Contact Person: Ty Phimmasone, Planner  
369 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
209-723-3153  
[ty.phimmasone@mcagov.org](mailto:ty.phimmasone@mcagov.org)