

Merced County Local Alternative Transportation Improvement Program List of Projects

Westside Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility

This project proposes to construct an operations and maintenance facility on the west side of Merced County for the region's single public transit provider in Merced County, the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPA). The intent is to acquire property along the SR 152 corridor between the City of Los Banos and the SR 152/SR 33 Wye just north of the City of Dos Palos.

Currently, TJPA has one operations and maintenance facility in Merced which requires buses that serve the westside of the county to clock unnecessary hours (and VMT) from the facility to the westside for regular service and maintenance. A roundtrip from Merced to Los Banos is 76 miles via SR 59 to SR 152 along the entirety of the segment of SR 152 involved in the proposed rescission.

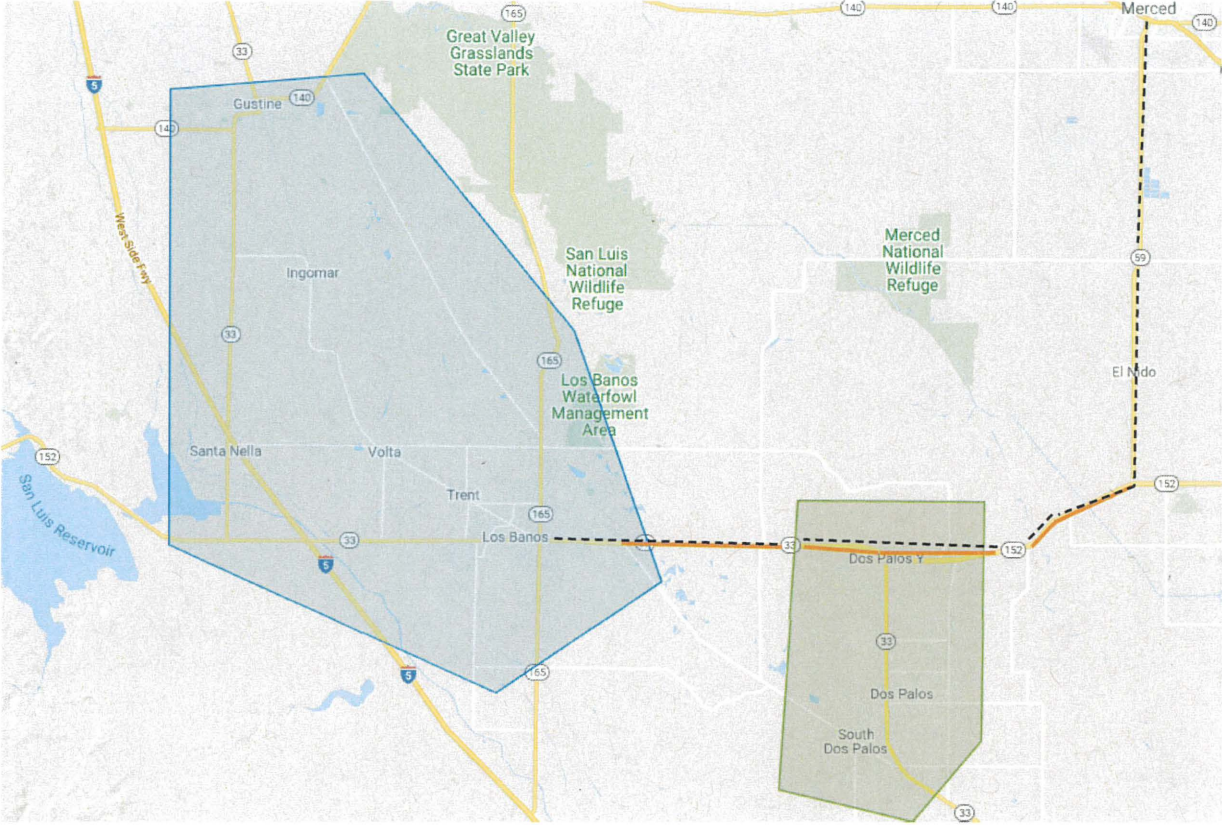
TJPA currently provides fixed route commuter service between Merced and Los Banos, and micro transit service in the communities of Dos Palos, Los Banos, Gustine, and Santa Nella. Having an operations and maintenance facility on SR 152 will not only provide several operational efficiencies like bus storage and onsite maintenance which will reduce VMT back and forth to Merced, but it will be essential in developing and deploying a zero-emission fleet on the westside of the county. As outlined in TJPA's Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) plan, TJPA is investing in a hybrid fleet comprised of both battery electric and fuel cell buses. As such, having a facility on the west side of the county will allow for a quicker and more impactful transition to zero-emission for westside services – particularly micro transit.

TJPA intends to utilize existing capital reserve funds to acquire the property and begin project development. Construction will be delivered with capital funds provided by SB 125 and other state and federal sources. The proposed use of the LATIP funds is to dedicate them to the installation/maintenance/upgrades of zero-emission infrastructure needed on site, and potentially the installation of public charging infrastructure along the SR 152 corridor location.

See westside transit map on the next page.

Estimated Cost: \$8,000,000

Westside of Merced County – transit service areas and corridors



- SR 152 Rescission Segment
- TJPA’s Los Banos micro transit service area
- TJPA’s Dos Palos micro transit service area
- TJPA’s Merced to Los Banos bus commuter route

SR 152 Pacheco Boulevard Regional Path

The Pacheco Boulevard (SR 152) Regional Path is a planned multi-use bicycle/pedestrian path connecting the City of Los Banos and the Merced College Los Banos campus along the SR 152 corridor. The one-mile path is planned from Badger Flat Road to the Merced College Los Banos campus to the west.

Under current conditions, students are walking, bicycling, and skateboarding along SR 152 which is a critical east/west goods movement corridor and major commute route. The purpose of this project is to provide students with safe walking and biking access to the Merced College campus with connectivity to the City of Los Banos' local bike/ped network. Currently, no bicycle or pedestrian facilities exist on either the north or south side of SR 152 from Badger Flat Road and Merced College Campus Drive. This project would create a safe route of travel for bicyclists and pedestrians commuting to and from the college.

A project feasibility study was completed in 2018. MCAG and Merced County are working with Caltrans District 10 to develop a project delivery plan. Currently, \$2.3 million in local transportation sales tax funding has been allocated to the project. This project is being pursued as a partnership between MCAG, Caltrans, Merced County and Merced College.

Estimated Cost: \$3,000,000 - \$5,000,000

Project Area

