

2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Madera County Transportation Commission Fact Sheet

Executive Summary

The 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for Madera County is prepared by the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) and proposes how regional discretionary transportation dollars should be programmed. The RTIP is updated every two years and submitted to the CTC. This RTIP covers the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029 (State Fiscal Years 2024/25 – 2028/29). The existing projects programmed in the RTIP are intended toward advancing the region and State by eliminating gap closure/pinch point segments of SR 99 and increasing ridership on commuter rail. The new North Madera 6 Lane and existing South Madera 6 Lane projects are located near the geographic center of both California and the San Joaquin Valley, the breadbasket of the nation and the source of much of the nation's agricultural export income. The projects represent a major lynchpin for goods movement and passenger travel along SR 99 to and through the City of Madera. Expansion of these sections of SR 99 within and adjacent to the City of Madera is needed to improve safety, reduce congestion, increase connectivity for goods movement and general traffic on the national highway system, and to preserve acceptable facility operation. The Madera High-Speed Rail Station project is located on Avenue 12, Madera County's busiest east/west corridor connecting SR 99 and SR 41. The project will provide service connection with the San Joaquins Amtrak and transfer to High Speed Rail service when the initial operating segments between Merced and Bakersfield commence in 2030.

Benefits

The new North Madera 6 Lane, existing South Madera 6 Lane, and the Madera High-Speed Rail Station Project will assist the region's ability to improve safety, reduce congestion and increase connectivity of the highway system, increase multi-modal connectivity, enhance interregional commuter rail and preserve acceptable facility operation of SR 99. The projects in the RTIP benefits the surrounding disadvantaged communities by increasing connectivity to employment and production centers, education, services, and other opportunities in the region.

Goals and Objectives

The 2024 RTIP furthers the goals and objectives of MCTC's adopted 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The 2022 RTP/SCS contains four primary goals supported by seven objects which offer varying methods and tactics to ultimately achieve progress towards the goals. The goals and objectives share several common themes based on positive outreach feedback and state and federal mandates: creating a safer transportation system, raising economic vitality, maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, finding ways to reduce vehicle miles traveled and the harmful emission they generate, and providing better access to more modal options.

The following four goals guide the RTP/SCS as it ventures to achieve its vision and improve the overall quality of life in Madera County through an integrated multimodal transportation system and supportive land use footprint:

- Improve Quality of Life - MCTC's plans, programs, and policies will work to improve the quality of life in the Madera County region by integrating transportation systems that promote access to affordable housing, education resources, jobs, and recreational facilities.
- Raise Economic Prosperity - MCTC's plans, programs, and policies will facilitate enhanced economic viability of the region by increasing access to education and new job opportunities. A more educated population combined with a low cost of living can attract new investment in the Madera region.
- Cultural Diversity - MCTC's plans, programs, and policies will respect the region's wide variety of cultures and subcultures (each having unique needs and perspectives) by facilitating a range of transportation modes and housing choices designed to benefit the County's diverse population.
- Promote Public Health and a Cleaner Environment - MCTC's plans, programs, and policies will give preference to new development and economic prosperity in ways that ensure the health of its citizens, maintain and enhance the surrounding environment (cultural and socioeconomic resources), and those ways that enhance the regions financial stability over time.

The objectives identified below are a combined set of goals, policies, actions, and performance measures that are reflective of necessary steps to guide improvements to Madera County's transportation system, development and economic growth, and wellbeing through the next 24 years:

- Objective 1 - Provide equitable access to transportation options for all, regardless of race, income, national origin, age, location, physical ability, or any other factor.
- Objective 2 - Develop a transportation network able to support the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and increase economic vitality.
- Objective 3 - Improve environmental conditions through integrated planning of transportation and land uses and achieve state and federal air quality improvement mandates.
- Objective 4 - Support the development and implementation of innovative and emerging transportation technologies.
- Objective 5 - Improve mobility for all travelers through a variety of accessible modal options.
- Objective 6 - Foster growth with a mix of land use types able to facilitate mixed uses, infill and compact development, and preserve agricultural land and natural resources.
- Objective 7 - Develop funding and financing strategies to implement the projects and strategies in the RTP/SCS.

MCTC's 2024 RTIP will assist the Madera region's ability to achieve its goals and objectives. The projects contained in this RTIP are consistent with and help implement the region's transportation projects contained in MCTC's 2022 RTP/SCS. Furthermore, the programming of MCTC's 2024 RTIP is consistent with the policies, procedures, and funding capacity established in the 2022 STIP Guidelines and STIP Fund Estimate. The North Madera 6 Lane, South Madera 6 Lane, and the Madera High-Speed Rail Station Project will assist the region's ability to improve safety,

reduce congestion and increase connectivity of the highway system, increase multi-modal connectivity, enhance interregional commuter rail and preserve acceptable facility operation of SR 99.

The MCTC 2024 RTIP aligns with State, regional and local goals. The RTIP supports the goals by balancing local community and interregional needs and improving safety for all users. The RTIP is also consistent with the California Freight Mobility Plan, SR 99 Business Plan, SR 99 Corridor System Management Plan and the MCTC RTP.