



# MADERA

Publication of Madera County Transportation Commission

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SEP 03

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## Madera County Regional Bicycle Plan

### 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period in September

The Madera County 2003 Regional Bicycle Transportation Plan is a comprehensive document that coordinates the planning efforts of the individual cities and unincorporated areas of the county from a regional transportation planning perspective.

The intent of the plan is to provide a long-range guide for the development of an extensive bicycle transportation network in Madera County. It outlines goals, objectives, and policies; defines facilities standards; develops a system of bike paths, lanes, and routes; and identifies funding sources for implementation. The bicycle plan will be incorporated into the non-motorized section of the Madera County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), that is scheduled to be updated in 2004.

A series of four public workshops were held in the Spring of 2003 to solicit input from residents



regarding the policies, standards, and projects to be addressed and included in the plan.

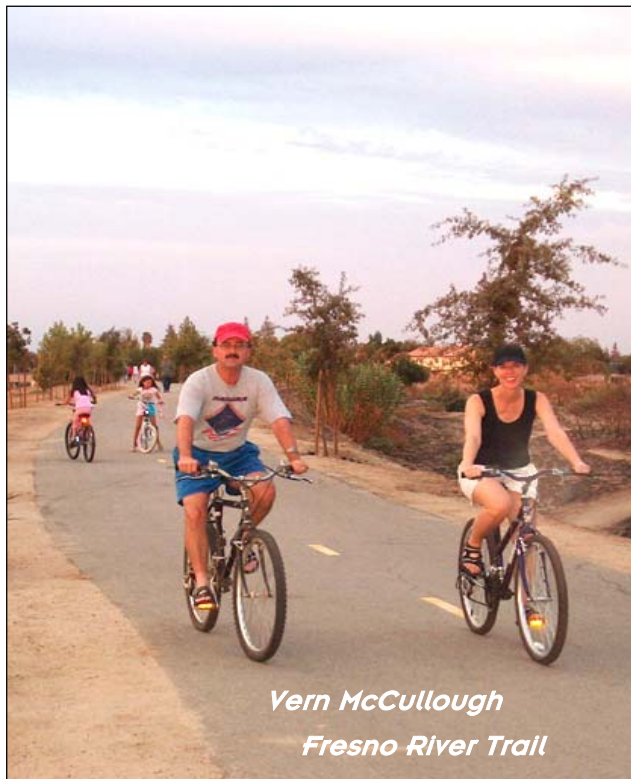
From those meetings a draft regional plan was developed and reviewed by the local agencies staffs.

The draft plan will go before the MCTC Policy Board in September to initiate a 30-day public review and comment period.

Once the plan is approved and submitted to Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit, the County of Madera, City of Chowchilla, and City of Madera become eligible to receive State Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funding through Caltrans state-wide competitive grant process.

The BTA provides \$7.2 million annually until 2005, and \$5 million annually thereafter to provide safe and convenient bicycle paths, lanes, and routes in local communities throughout the State of California.

The draft Madera County 2003 Regional Bicycle Plan will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period beginning on September 18, 2003. To view the draft plan visit [www.maderactc.org](http://www.maderactc.org). Contact Derek Winning at 559-675-0721 for additional information.



Vern McCullough  
Fresno River Trail

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
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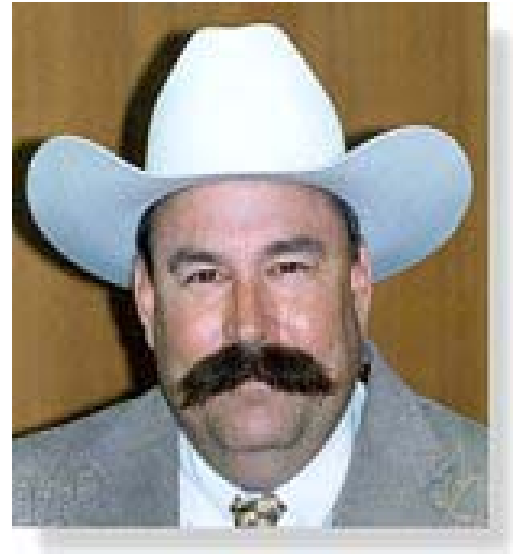
# Hot Topics: Budget, Recall, & Measure "A"

## Chairman's Corner With Supervisor Frank Bigelow

California's financial well-being has been a hot topic lately, receiving a lot of attention locally in the Madera Tribune, the Fresno Bee as well as on television and radio, both local and national. The financial stability of the state affects us all.

Of particular concern to us are the effect of the state budget deficit and the related issue of the Governor's recall on funding for local transportation projects.

More and more the burden of providing for transportation solutions is being shifted to the local level. There is a real need at the local level for creative solutions.



*"The budget shortfall will affect everyone, not only those in government..."*

### *State Budget and the Recall*

The state currently faces a \$38 billion budget shortfall. A shortfall that in the aggregate exceeds that of all other states combined. Strong public sentiment regarding this has led to an unprecedented move to recall the Governor.

Regardless of the success of this move and no matter who ultimately controls the budgeting process in Sacramento, it is obvious that substantial changes will be required in order for the state to recover financially.

Of particular concern to our interests, will be the impact on the streets and roads infrastructure in Madera. Under the best of circumstances, securing state and federal funding for our local transportation needs has been difficult. In this new environment, it will be even more so. In the past, Madera has had to compete for funding with other regions of the state for transportation funds.

This competition is expected to become even more complex as it expands to include funding for schools, health services, and mandated public assistance programs. In that most transportation funding is discretionary, there will be tremendous pressure to defer transportation spending in favor of other vital state programs.

### *Measure "A"*

One creative solution available at the local level is the implementation of a local sales tax program. Madera County established such a program in 1990 and has successfully delivered a number of locally important street and highway projects. This program has also allowed local agencies to secure state and federal funding by providing a source of matching funds to enhance our ability to compete effectively.

The current Measure "A" sunsets in 2005 and has delivered approximately \$65 million in locally important transportation projects. Given the uncertainties facing funding for transportation projects in the next five to ten years, it is important that Madera do what it can to maintain as many options as it can. Extension of Measure "A" is an option we wish to pursue. We will be working with community leaders during the next year to explore the potential for continuing or reauthorizing Measure "A".

Meetings to discuss approaches are scheduled monthly. The next meeting is September 18, 2003 at the Westside Activities Center at 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions, contact the MCTC staff at 559-675-0721 or the Transportation Authority staff at 559-675-3927.

## Fall Policy Conference held in Bass Lake

Madera County Transportation Commission will be hosting the San Joaquin Valley Transportation Planning Director's Association Fall Policy Conference. The original conference was only for one day, but due to the importance of the topics being covered, the Director's Association has decided to extend the conference to two days.

This year's conference will be focusing on Valley Air Quality issues, Regional Transportation Financing Efforts, a Legislative/SAFETEA update, Collaborative Regional Planning, and Goods Movement.

The San Joaquin Valley Transportation Planning Director's Association Fall Policy Conference will be held October 2-3, 2003. The Conference is open to all and the cost of the two day conference is \$95.00.

Please contact Patricia Taylor-Maley, MCTC Executive Director, at 559-675-0721 or email [patricia@maderactc.org](mailto:patricia@maderactc.org).



**2003 Fall Policy Conference**

October 2-3, 2003  
Pines Resort Conference Center  
Bass Lake, California 93604  
Contact: Patricia Taylor-Maley, 559-675-0721

**Registration information**  
[www.maderactc.org](http://www.maderactc.org)



## Measure "A" Appoints New Chair & Vice Chair

Bobby Kahn, the Executive Director of the Madera County Economic Development Commission, has been chosen as the Chairman of the Measure "A" Extension Steering Committee for 2003/2004. Gordon Skeels has been chosen as the Vice Chair of the Committee.

There will be meetings every third Thursday of the month at the Westside Activities Center. Since Measure "A" failed on the November 2002 ballot, the Committee is exploring their options for placing the Measure on the November 2004 ballot.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more information regarding the Steering Committee, please contact Patricia Taylor-Maley, MCTC's Executive Director, at 559-675-0721.

### Measure "A" Extension Steering Committee Meetings

**September 18, 2003**

**October 16, 2003**

**November 20, 2003**

**December 18, 2003**

**Time**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Place**  
**Westside Activity Center**  
**1124 W. Yosemite, Madera**

**For more information,**  
**please call**  
**559-675-0721**



## Measure "A" Dollars (\$9.5 Million) at Work

Driving across the Madera Avenue over crossing at Freeway 99 can be a lesson on patience. Bottlenecks along the two-lane Madera Avenue bridge are a common sight and it is no secret that improvements are needed. Commuters and residents alike however, will not have to endure the stop-and-go traffic for long. Beginning in the summer of 2004, the over crossing will undergo much needed improvements to reduce delay times, increase circulation, provide better access to the north and south sides of town, and most importantly, improve safety.

Les Jorgensen, City of Madera Director of Special Transportation Projects, is quick to point out that both the City and County of Madera identify the over crossing as one of the most deficient facilities in the region. It therefore comes as no surprise that he considers the improvements to the Madera Avenue over crossing "one of the highest priority projects."

Improvements to the over crossing and surrounding intersections will include:

- ▶ Widening Olive Avenue between "I" street and Madera Avenue to four lanes with a left turn pocket for northbound Madera Avenue traffic.

- ▶ Widening the existing bridge from two lanes to six, including two through lanes and two left turn lanes in each direction to provide better access to north and southbound Freeway 99.
- ▶ Widening the Madera/Olive Avenue intersection to accommodate two through lanes in each direction, with two left turn pockets for northbound Madera Avenue traffic turning west onto Olive Avenue.
- ▶ Reconfiguring traffic signals to accommodate additional lanes.

As part of the same project, improvements are also planned to drastically increase the accessibility to the Central Business District and Madera Community Hospital. Currently, a one-lane bridge over crossing exists as a southbound Freeway 99 onramp and connector between Gateway Drive and Almond Avenue for southbound travel only. This bridge will be expanded to two lanes to accommodate two-way traffic, providing increased access between the two streets. Immediately west of the bridge, a new road will be constructed between Freeway 99 and Almond Avenue that will link into the existing Almond Avenue and Barnett way intersection. Increasing access to the hospital will be a new southbound off-ramp that will tie into Almond Avenue at the Madera Community Hospital entrance road. According to Les Jorgensen, "This will not only provide increased accessibility for residents but would greatly reduce the time it takes emergency vehicles to get to the hospital." Finally, Gateway Drive between Olive Avenue and Freeway 99 will be reconstructed to solve existing drainage problems and to provide for the merging flow of northbound traffic off of Freeway 99.

Total costs for the above  
(Continued on page 5)



*The Madera Avenue project will include widening the intersection at Madera & Olive Avenue.*

## Measure "A" Continued

(Continued from page 4)

projects, which includes engineering, environmental, right-of-way, and construction will be approximately \$9.5 million. The projects are made possible by local Measure "A" funds, which is a 1/2 cent sales tax for local transportation improvement projects, combined with \$3.9 million in the region's share of the State Transportation Improvement

Program funds.

Without Measure "A" funding, widening the Madera Avenue bridge and reconstructing access to Madera Community Hospital would not be possible. As a result, rural and city residents will soon experience immediate benefits in accessibility, safety, and convenience.



*The Madera Avenue Project is scheduled to begin Summer 2004 using current Measure "A" funding.*



## 2 Feasibility Studies for Madera County

The Madera County Transportation Commission Policy Board at its July 23, 2003 meeting requested that the Commission Chair contact Caltrans to inquire as to the possibility of conducting two feasibility studies in Madera County.

The two locations of interest are:

- ▶ Highway 41 & Road 200
- ▶ Highway 41 & Yosemite Spring Parkway

The Commission is concerned that increased traffic activity in the Highway 41 corridor between

Highway 41 and Coarsegold, specifically the recent opening of the Chukchansi Gold Resort, will adversely affect access to Highway 41 at these two locations.

The Commission's request is that Caltrans conduct warrant studies at both locations and if warranted provide information relative to project scope, estimated costs, and potential sources of funding.

For additional information, contact Patricia Taylor-Maley, MCTC's Executive Director, at 559-675-0721.

# CASINO

## Agencies to Examine Transit to Casino

The Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino, located in the eastern Madera County foothills at State Route 41 and Road 417 in Coarsegold, opened June 25, 2003. The casino, now the County's largest private employer, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provides jobs for 1,500 employees. The casino indicated that the lack of transportation was a major concern for many employees.

The City of Madera and Madera County recognize the benefits of employing County residents and the potential for increasing and maximizing the economic vitality of the Madera region. The City and County therefore retained the services of Moy & Associates to undertake an analysis of casino employee transportation alternatives and projected costs.

The study reveals that 40% or 600 of casino employees are from Madera County, with 450 living in the City of Madera proper area. A major transit challenge is determining how to optimize service given 27 shifts and 22 different start and end times within a 24-hour workday. Currently, approximately 57% of employees drive alone, 24% rideshare, and 15% get dropped off and picked up. An employee survey shows that 38% of those who currently do not have a vehicle are willing to use public transit, while 31% preferred to carpool, and 28% would prefer to be driven to and from work.

Three transportation alternatives are presented in this study including:

- (1) Provide general public Madera County Connection/MCC express bus service at a cost of \$154,000 after fares.
- (2) Provide private express bus service for casino employees only at a cost of \$196,500 after fares.
- (3) Implement ridesharing at a minimal cost.

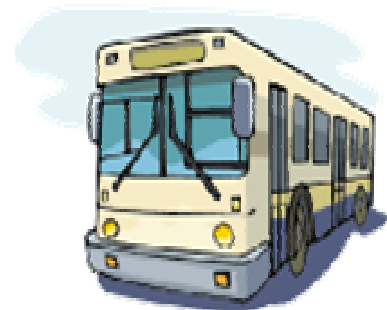
The study recommends providing general public MCC Express Bus Service on a six-month demonstration basis and implementing ridesharing with maximum subsidies and other employee incentives, where feasible, for employees who ride public transportation, carpool, and vanpool.

The study further identifies a variety of potential funding sources for the pilot project including, State Transportation Development Acts funds (LTF/STA), Federal Transit Administration funds, and farebox revenue.

Other non-traditional sources also could be used, including Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant, and private contributions from the casino.

While some Madera City Council members recognize the air quality benefits of transit and the casino's positive economic impact, the Council generally expressed concern in supporting a publicly funded transit service for the casino employees, however, accepted the study as a technical document.

The Board of Supervisors accepted the study and agreed to initiate transit service to the casino as a four-month pilot project and to seek alternative funding sources, including support from the casino and the cities of Madera and Chowchilla.





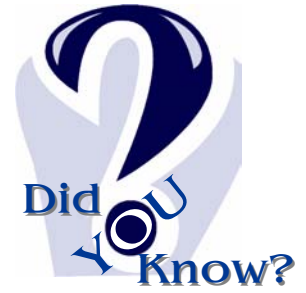
## San Joaquin Valley Air... "Spare the Air"

The District's Spare The Air Campaign went into full swing on June 6 with Drill Day. Each year, the practice day allows the Valley Air District, participating work sites and the media to prepare for smoggy days to come. Though Drill Day was pre-designated, this year the Valley experienced early smoggy conditions on the kick off day.

The focus of the Spare the Air program is to motivate Valley residents to drive less and use alternative forms of transportation to reduce vehicle emissions.

There are 730 employer partners involved in educating their employees on air friendly practices and promoting emission reduction activities. For the kick-off, some employers hosted employee barbecues, distributed prizes and offered discounts to customers.

The Valley Air District uses radio, television and newspaper advertising as well as a speaker's bureau to spread the word about Spare the Air. The daily Spare the Air status is available at 1-800-SMOG or [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).



Madera County Transportation Commission has a new Web site. Visit us at [www.maderactc.org](http://www.maderactc.org).

Other useful local links include:  
County of Madera:  
[www.madera-county.com](http://www.madera-county.com).

City of Madera:  
[www.cityofmadera.org](http://www.cityofmadera.org).

City of Chowchilla:  
[www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us](http://www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us).

For more links to State, Federal, and RTPA sites, visit [www.maderactc.org](http://www.maderactc.org) and click on the Transportation Links tab.

## Madera County Transit System Schedules

### CITY OF CHOWCHILLA Chowchilla Area Transit Express (CATX)

Demand-response system:  
Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Fare: \$1.00 (Zone 1)  
\$1.50 (Zone 2)  
Reservations: 559-665-8655

### CITY OF MADERA Madera Dial-A-Ride (DAR)

Demand-response system:  
Weekdays: 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Fare: \$2.00 (General public)  
Fare (city area): \$1.00 (Seniors/Disabled)  
Fare (county area): \$2.00 (Seniors/Disabled)  
Reservations: 559-661-7433

### Madera Area Express (MAX)

Fixed-route system:  
Weekdays: 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fare: \$0.75  
Information: 559-661-7433

### COUNTY OF MADERA Madera County Connection (MCC)

Intercity fixed-route system:  
Fare: \$2.00  
Children (0-5) Free  
Information: 559-661-7435

*Eastern Madera County-Madera Route*  
North Fork, Bass Lake, Oakhurst,  
Coarsegold, Yosemite Lakes Park,  
Ranchos, Children's Hospital  
Weekdays: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Chowchilla/Fairmead-Madera Route*  
Weekdays: 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

*Eastin Arcola/Ripperdan/La Vina-  
Madera Route*  
Wed. & Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### Eastern Madera County Senior Bus

Demand-response:  
Oakhurst, Coarsegold, Bass Lake,  
Ahwahnee  
Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Fare: \$1.50 (Seniors/Disabled)  
Reservations: 559-683-4258

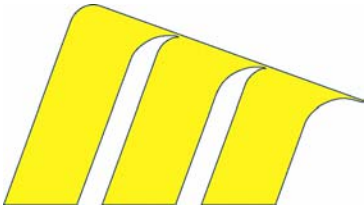
### COUNTY OF MADERA— CONTINUED Eastern Madera County Escort Service

Medical trips to Madera, Fresno,  
Clovis  
Volunteer demand-response:

North Fork, Bass Lake, Oakhurst,  
Coarsegold, Ahwahnee Areas  
Tues. & Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Fare: \$10.00  
Reservations: 559-683-6399

Madera Ranchos Area  
Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fare: \$5.00  
Reservations: 559-673-9173





## Madera County Transportation Commission

1816 Howard Road, Suite 8, Madera, California 93637

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 29  
MADERA CA  
93638

### MCTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman  
**Frank Bigelow**  
Madera County, District 1

Vice Chairman  
**Gordon Skeels**  
City of Madera

**Ronn Dominici**  
Madera County, District 3

**Gary Gilbert**  
Madera County, District 5

**M.J. Nabors**  
City of Madera

**Alfred Ginsburg**  
City of Chowchilla

### MCTC STAFF:

Executive Director  
**Patricia Taylor-Maley**

Transportation Planner II  
**Bob Stone**

Transportation Planner II  
**Derek Winning**

Public Information Officer/Transportation Planner  
**Rebecca Hackler Arellano**

Transportation Planner  
**Lester Koga**

Administrative Assistant  
**Sheila Kingsley**

Receptionist  
**Tricia Stone**

## Madera County Transportation Authority & Madera County Transportation Commission

# 2003 Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held in the Madera County Government Center Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 209 West Yosemite Avenue, Madera, California. Authority commences at 2:30 p.m. Commission commences at 3:00 p.m.

January	22	July	23
February	19	August*	No Meeting
March	26	September	17
April	23	October	22
May	21	November	19
June	No Meeting	December	No Meeting