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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Cindy Malekos
Phone: (209) 573-3946
Email: cmalekos@stancog.org

**ANNOUNCING THE NEW
STANISLAUS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (StanRTA)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Modesto, CA) – By unanimous action on January 26, 2021, of both the Modesto City Council and the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA), the Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority (StanRTA), has been formed to improve transit efficiencies and operations in the Stanislaus region.

StanRTA will merge the City of Modesto MAX and the Stanislaus County StaRT transit systems into one seamless system to better serve transit users.

In October 2019, the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) completed a Transit Efficiency and Innovations Study to identify opportunities for greater integration of transit services throughout Stanislaus County. The study resulted in a recommendation to consolidate all transit services in the region and create a JPA. Consolidation of transit services will allow for more effective route planning, reduction of duplicated services, and more seamless travel throughout the Stanislaus region. The StanCOG Policy Board approved the recommendation and worked closely with the three transit operators in the Stanislaus region (Modesto, Turlock and Stanislaus County) to move forward with the transit consolidation.

StanCOG is supportive of the effort to enhance and improve transit performance in the region. Promoting alternative modes of transportation is aligned with StanCOG’s goals in its regional planning with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing mobility options for the community.

“Improving transit performance is our main goal and objective. There are many residents that rely on transit as their only mobility option” said Terry Withrow, Stanislaus County Supervisor and Chairman of the StanCOG Policy Board. “Transit riders having the ability to use one ticket and pay one fee to move around the region is really important” said Jenny Kenoyer, City of Modesto Councilmember and StanCOG Policy Board member.

The first meeting of the StanRTA will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 1:30 pm. The agenda for the meeting is available at www.StanRTA.org.

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About StanCOG

The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as designated by the federal government, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) as designated by the State of California, and the Local Transportation Authority (LTA) which administers the local Measure L sales tax dedicated to transportation improvements in the Stanislaus region. StanCOG is a public organization that works with local governments and citizens in the Stanislaus region by dealing with issues and needs that cross city and county boundaries.

Established in 1971, StanCOG is a council of city and county governments, comprised of the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford, and Stanislaus County, which addresses regional transportation issues. It provides the forum that brings local mayors, city council members and county supervisors together to work on regional transportation issues in a setting that promotes the involvement of the public in the planning process for the Stanislaus region.