



Regional Transportation Plan & Sustainable Communities Strategy

Draft Document

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Fresno Council of Governments



Introducing Fresno County

The Fresno County Region

Fresno County lies in the heart of California, within the Central San Joaquin Valley. It is the 10th most populous county in the state and the sixth largest in size. Today, the City of Fresno is the fifth-largest city in California. Fresno County has 15 incorporated cities and many other unincorporated communities.

Agriculture is the primary industry, making it the No. 1 agricultural county in the nation. As the largest producer of farm commodities in the world, Fresno County has a strong “farm-to-market” travel demand affecting local roads and the state highway system. Freight moves constantly throughout the county, as agricultural products and other commodities are brought to market via interregional routes.

State Route 41 north out of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) is the primary corridor to Yosemite, one of the two most-visited national parks in the nation. The county is crossed by two north-south corridors: State Route 99 and Interstate 5. Each of them is key to the statewide network. Recreational trips are also served by several state highways, such as Routes 33, 168, and 180.

Fresno-Yosemite International Airport provides airport service to its service area of six counties, while Fresno is also served by eight additional public use airports and Amtrak train service, which has experienced increasing ridership. Existing rail lines also offer potential for an expanding share of commodity movement.

The distances among local destinations have encouraged automobile usage, yet there are large rural and urban populations within Fresno County dependent on public transit. The Fresno County region’s climate and terrain are compatible with bicycling and walking for short commutes and recreational trips. Most transit services provide easily accessible bike racks or other storage to make multi-modal travel easily accessible.

Regional Transportation Planning

Regional transportation plans (RTPs) address the mobility needed to keep regions moving and communities connected. Fresno COG’s 2026 RTP charts regional transportation’s long-range vision through 2049. As we address new requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it continues to be Fresno COG’s goal to plan in partnership with communities throughout the region, providing transportation choices that enhance residents’ quality of life. Developed through an extensive outreach effort spanning over two years, this RTP identifies existing and future transportation related needs, while considering all modes of travel, analyzing alternative solutions, and identifying what can be completed with anticipated available funding for the more than 2,800 projects and multiple programs included within it. It contains a variety of different elements or chapters, augmented by additional documentation within the appendices.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

MPOs are Federally mandated and Federally funded transportation policymaking organizations that comprise representatives from local government and governmental transportation authorities. Congress established MPOs to ensure Federal transportation expenditures are rooted in intergovernmental collaboration, rational analysis, and consensus-based decision making.

Fresno Council of Governments was formalized in 1969 through a joint powers agreement among the incorporated cities in Fresno County and the County of Fresno. As the MPO for Fresno County, Fresno COG addresses issues of mutual concern to the county and the cities in the Fresno County region, while satisfying Federal and State transportation planning and programming mandates.

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