



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of February 17, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 5-P

PREPARED BY: Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

San Joaquin Valley Household Travel Survey

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The San Joaquin Valley Household Travel Survey (VHTS) will collect data for the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley, including household demographic information, travel patterns, and trip-making characteristics. The data will be used in estimation, calibration, and validation of the travel demand models owned by the eight Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). These models are a critical tool for planning activities at local, regional, state, and federal levels, such as Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) development, making air quality conformity determination, transportation corridor studies, environmental justice analysis, Senate Bill 743 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), impact fee nexus studies, and transit service planning.

The California Household Travel Survey (CHTS) used to be conducted by Caltrans Headquarters at a statewide level. The most recent CHTS was completed in 2012. The MCTC traffic model utilized CHTS data for updates in 2015 and 2019. There are no plans for the state to conduct another CHTS. The data produced from the survey is the most adequate available for calibrating and validating certain types of travel behavior in travel models. A region's travel model must use latest readily available planning assumptions and data and be calibrated and validated at least every 10 years. Many valley MPOs operate travel models that will need to be recalibrated and revalidated in the next two to three years. Given the degree of change in California travel behavior and the age of existing CHTS data, there is significant need to broadly survey San Joaquin Valley communities to ensure accurate planning assumptions can be applied to travel analysis tools.

The Valley MPOs will sponsor the survey, with involvement from Caltrans District 6 and 10 staff, as Caltrans uses the Valley MPO's models in the design and planning of state facilities. Fresno Council Of Governments (Fresno COG) will be the primary project manager with oversight from the other seven valley MPOs. The California Department of Housing and

Community Development (HCD) will also be a partner in the survey as they will be sponsoring a supplemental housing survey as an add-on of the travel survey. The data and a final report with detailed travel characteristics summarized for each county will be developed at the conclusion of the project and provided to each Valley MPO.

An application has been prepared for a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant by Fresno COG. MCTC has provided a letter of support written to the Caltrans Director, Toks Omishakin for the grant application. A copy of the letter is included with this item. The grant application was submitted to Caltrans on February 12, 2021.

The project would take place in the 2021-22 fiscal year. The project will launch, and an oversight committee will be formed in the summer of 2021. The survey structure will be planned and crafted in the fall of 2021. The actual survey would take place in the winter of 2022. It is currently estimated between 6,000 and 7,000 surveys will be conducted. Processing, reporting, and the project completion would take place in the spring of 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2020-21 Overall Work Program and Budget.