



“In the Works”

Striving to be the Leading Public Works
Department Through Innovative Stewardship of
Infrastructure and Environment

**Stanislaus County
Public Works**

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Modesto Empire & Traction (ME&T) Railroad Crossing At Mariposa Road Project

Submitted by Jose Ramirez

The Modesto Empire & Traction (ME&T) Railroad Crossing at Mariposa Road Project (located just south of Yosemite Boulevard / State Route 132 and Mariposa Road intersection) was awarded in April 2010 to George Reed, Inc.

The purpose of this project was to eliminate hazards at this railroad-highway intersection and to widen the west and east radius returns to accommodate truck turning movements.

The project consisted of the installation of concrete medians on Mariposa Road, widening of the returns on the south side of the intersection, the installation of four new railroad control arms, the installation of two new W10-3 railroad warning signs, a 0.15' AC overlay, and new roadway striping.

ME&T Company's cooperation throughout this project helped George Reed successfully complete the project in 45 contract working days. The total cost for this project was \$56,410.



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**Check out GIS at:
www.gis.stancounty.com**

Mariposa Road at ME&T Railroad

BEFORE

AFTER



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Ethics Quotes

John Templeton:

“It is nice to be important, but it’s more important to be nice.”

“Health & Safety Byte”

Submitted by Laura Janovich

According to a study by Dr. Charles Gerba at the University of Arizona, the typical office worker’s desk/cubicle contains approximately **400 times more bacteria** than the average toilet seat.

Gerba stated, “For bacteria, a desk is really the laptop of luxury.” At the employee’s desk, the most contaminated surfaces tended to be the phones, with desktops coming in at #2, just above commonly used appliances such as the microwave door handles and water fountain handles. The computer keyboard comes in at #5.

* * *

Health & Safety Go Hand in Hand

Submitted by Laura Janovich

We all start our day the same way...by waking up. Some of us naturally wake up at a set time and some of us are awakened by the sound of an alarm of sorts. It is from this point that we start making the decisions that will determine the fate of our day. Not all of the events of the day are in your control but how you will be able to deal with them is in your control.



I am sure all of us have heard the phrase,

"Breakfast Is The Most Important Meal Of The Day". *Sure it is. It takes time, effort, and I am hungrier before lunch if I eat breakfast.* It is a proven fact that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Children who have breakfast do better in school, people who eat breakfast have a lower Body Mass Index (BMI), and more recent studies show that the people who eat a healthy breakfast, live a longer, happier, healthier life. It is also a fact that the people who eat breakfast are able to focus and stay alert, therefore, breakfast eaters have less injuries and accidents.

Think of your body as a vehicle - you run it for a while and then you need to refuel it. The same is true for your body. You should eat a healthy breakfast within the first two hours after you wake up. Breakfast can be quick and easy.

Here are some examples:

Quick (less than 10 minutes)

- Quesadilla with 2 corn tortillas and low fat cheese
- Scrambled eggs and whole wheat toast
- Whole wheat French toast topped with fruit

Quicker (less than 5 minutes)

- Whole wheat English muffin with 1 tbsp peanut butter
- 1 cup of oatmeal with raisins
- Low fat cottage cheese and fruit

Quickest (less than 1 minute)

- High fiber granola bar
- Fat free yogurt and fresh berries
- String cheese and a piece of fruit
- 1 cup high fiber, low sugar cereal and nonfat milk



The rest of your meals should be separated by 4 to 5 hours. A snack is a good thing between meals if you get hungry. A snack should consist of one of the following: a piece of fruit, string cheese, a hard boiled egg, a cup of low fat cottage cheese, ¼ cup of nuts or seeds...be creative but remember, it is a snack not meant to fill you up, just hold you over. Plan your meals. Cut back on portions. Americans have increased both portion sizes and calories in the past 20 years by an average of 200 calories a day. That is

20 lbs. of weight gain a year. SLOW DOWN. Give your body time to realize you are fueling it before it over flows. Be sure to include plenty of fruits and vegetables with each meal. Use a 9-inch plate to place your food on and half should be for fruits and vegetables. Choose lean meats, and when serving grains, make them whole grains, stay away from the white grains, think brown. Try to include fish 2-3 times a week. Look out for those beverages too. One 20 oz. Coke has 16 ¼ teaspoons of sugar!!!!

Remember to share this information with your family. A recent Kaiser study found that for the first time in history, THIS GENERATION OF CHILDREN WILL NOT OUT LIVE THEIR PARENTS. It is because of diet and nutrition and lack of physical exercise! Take a walk with the family after dinner instead of plopping down on the couch in front of the TV. Get active, and *read labels!* After all, you are what you eat.



* * *

New Laws and an Amendment

There are actually two (2) new "**Move Over**" laws that went into effect January 1, 2010. The first new law, SB 159, "When approaching an emergency vehicle or tow truck displaying emergency lights on the highway, motorists must slow down and move out of the lane adjacent to the emergency vehicle, if it is safe to do so." Additionally, SB 240 expands the "**Slow Down and Move Over**" law to include Caltrans vehicles that are flashing amber lights.



Crimes Against Highway Workers—Assault and Battery (AB 561, Carter)

This new law amends section 2415 and 243.65 of the penal code to expand the definition of a highway worker to **include employees of a city or county** who perform specified activities related to local streets and roads. Additionally this new law includes in the definition of a highway worker, employees of a contractor while working under contract with Caltrans, contractors and employees of contractors while working under contract with a city or county volunteers.

10 New Bridge Projects on Minor Roads in Stanislaus County

Submitted by David Leamon

Caltrans this summer issued a call for projects for bridges on minor and local roads. Engineering Design had approximately three weeks to submit proposed projects for the tight deadline, so we submitted 10 applications and we received project approval on all 10 bridges. The best part of this call for projects is that Stanislaus County will not have a local match for these projects as we are using Toll Credits. The Toll Credits are not a new source of money, they allow Caltrans to program 100% Federal Funds on projects.

Stanislaus County has approximately 1150 miles of non-Federal Aid eligible roads and 237 bridges total.

The bridges that we have received approval on to start the design process are:

1. Crabtree Bridge over Dry Creek – Structurally Deficient
2. Tim Bell Bridge over Dry Creek – Functionally Obsolete
3. Gilbert Road over Ceres Main Canal – Functionally Obsolete
4. Pleasant Valley Road over the SSJID Main Canal – Structurally Deficient
5. Cooperstown Road over Gallup Creek – Functionally Obsolete & Fracture Critical
6. Shiells Road over CCID Main Canal – Functionally Obsolete
7. St. Francis Avenue over MID Main Canal – Functionally Obsolete
8. Cooperstown Road over Rydberg Creek – Structurally Deficient
9. Tegner Road over TID Lateral No. 3 – Functionally Obsolete
10. Tegner Road over TID Lateral No. 5 – Structurally Deficient

The likely replacements for these bridges will be concrete slab and/or concrete box girder bridges. A modern concrete bridge is low maintenance, seismically durable and with little maintenance will last 100 years or more. The design and environmental process for these bridges will take two to three years, right-of-way an additional year or two and at least some of these bridges should be under construction around 2015 or so.

As President Ronald Reagan said, “One of our great material blessings is the outstanding network of roads and highways that spread across this vast continent. Freedom of travel and the romance of the road are vital parts of our heritage, and they helped to make America great. Four million miles of streets and roads make it possible for the average citizen to drive to virtually every corner of our country—to enjoy America in all its beauty and variety. They also form a vital commercial artery unequaled anywhere else in the world.”



Crabtree Bridge over Dry Creek — Note the stop signs and the weight limits. The stop signs are for trying to slow down truck loads that regularly violate the weight limit on the bridge.



Tim Bell Road Bridge over Dry Creek — Reinforced concrete arch bridge with a wooden superstructure, which is maintenance intensive.



Cooperstown Road over Gallup Creek — Weight restricted Pratt Pony Truss bridge.

Public Works

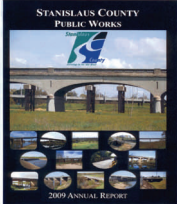
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To access our Public Works
2009 Annual Report, go to:

<http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/pdf/annual-report.pdf>



2010 American Heart Walk

Submitted by Sharon Andrews

Public Works employees raised \$1,343.80 (nearly \$250 more than in 2009) for the American Heart Walk. We had a team of eight walkers that participated in the 3.2 mile walk/run on September 25, 2010 Heart Walk at Modesto Junior College's East Campus. The event raised a total of \$172,234 to help fund education, research and treatments for heart disease and stroke. Heart Disease is the #1 Killer of Adults in the United States.



Pictured are (from left to right starting at the top): Matt Machado, Jason Andrews, Diane Haugh, Larry Haugh (Auditor's Office), Sherry May, Lisa Cardoso (Chief Executive Office), Keimi Espinoza, Kristi Nakagawa with Mimzy (dog), Sharon Andrews, Daniel Andrews, Jason Andrews, Jr. and Suzi Seibert (Board of Supervisors).



Transit Division

Submitted by Brad Christian

The Transit Division has been busy this summer and early fall. Staff has participated in and will be participating in over eight events in August, September and October including events at CSA (Community Services Agency), CSUS (Cal State University at Stanislaus) and Ceres and Senior events in Modesto, Turlock and Patterson.

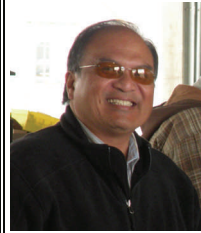
Staff, in partnership with the City of Patterson, is beginning phase II of the Patterson Transfer Facility project that is the installation of a restroom adjacent to the bus stop. This project will benefit both StaRT passengers and drivers and residents of Patterson. This project will be funded with state Proposition 1-B Transit funds.

Also, the *Easy Rider* Trip Planner is now available on the StaRT website, www.srt.org. It enables a rider to put in their trip origin and destination and a desired travel time and it will provide a detailed itinerary, including the nearest bus stops for boarding and alighting and any transfers that may need to be made. *Easy Rider* is also available on the websites of the other transit operators in the County. The regional project involved all the County's transit operators with the County Public Works Transit Division being the lead agency on the project. Check it out! This project was funded with federal ARRA economic stimulus funds.

Staff is also gearing up for its annual audit and State Controller's report.

Transit Division's website is: www.srt.org
Passengers may call StaRT at 1-800-262-1516 for route information.

In Memoriam Anthony "Tony" Refuerzo 7/18/54—7/29/10



"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."
~ Mother Teresa

Staff Updates

Retirement:

Ron Cherrier (Transportation Project Coordinator) retired with almost 29 years of service.

Thank you for your service!

Staff Addition:

Wayne Sutton (County Surveyor) Survey Division.

Welcome to our team!



News:

- Bill Fischer (Senior Application Specialist, GIS) wed Sarah Lytle-Pinhey on September 4, 2010.
- Denny Ferreira (Senior Engineering Technician) accepted a promotion to Building Inspector III in the Building Permits Division.
- Roma Kahlon (Software Developer/Analyst III, GIS) left to pursue business opportunities.
- Justin Schmidt (Engineering Aide I, Design) resigned to return to Boise State as a full-time student.

Congratulations and good luck to all!

New Babies:

- Rich Brown (Engineering Technician, Survey) has a new baby girl named Rubye Brown born on August 25, 2010.
- Laurie Barton (Deputy Director) has a new grandson named Christopher Pastore born on September 2, 2010 (our very own "90210" baby!)

Best wishes!!
