



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ✓

2015 MAY 19 P 2:27

Garrad Marsh, Mayor
City of Modesto
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6200
Modesto, CA 95354
gmarsh@modestogov.com

May 19, 2015

Re: Letter of Support for ACE Train Expansion

Dear Elected Official,

The City of Modesto is pleased to inform you of our support for the ACE Train expansion project.

The ACE train currently operates 4 daily trains from San Joaquin County to the Silicon Valley area carrying 1.2 million annual riders. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) has launched the "ACEforward" program, an effort to improve and extend the existing Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) rail service. ACEforward could offer direct service to our communities (potentially 2 daily round-trips by 2018 and 6 daily round-trips plus weekend service by 2022). The ACE extension is expected to serve the downtowns of Manteca, Ripon, Modesto, Turlock, Livingston/ Atwater and Merced in Stanislaus and Merced counties.

ACEforward aims to run more frequent trains that will be more reliable, safer, faster, and help reduce highway congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. This will improve connectivity with other transit services, including BART (in the Tri-Valley and other potential locations). In addition, ACEforward supports regional and state sustainability goals by placing new San Joaquin Valley stations in existing downtown corridors.

We believe that ACE would be an indispensable economic and environmental asset to Stanislaus County by:

- Generating good jobs, both directly and indirectly, through shovel-ready projects
- Saving time and money for both rail passengers and motorists
- Taking cars off of our busy freeway corridors
- Enhancing public safety, reducing emissions and consequential health costs
- Promoting private investment in sustainable communities
- Providing key connections to future high-speed rail services

Improving our valley regional train service will result in more jobs, improved air quality and more transportation choices. We encourage you as to also support the ACE Train expansion for all the reasons outlined. We believe with regional cooperation we can better our cities in profound ways. The ACE Train expansion is a great first step toward cooperation and the economic growth of our region.

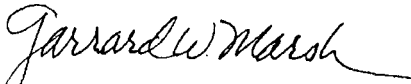
Recently, our Modesto City Council adopted the attached resolution in support of the ACE Train expansion. On behalf of the City of Modesto we strongly encourage you to also support the ACEforward expansion program by having your legislative body adopt a similar resolution. Collectively, our voice as the elected local representatives of our respective jurisdictions will help enable ACE Train expansion through Stanislaus County, and Merced County and we hope you will join this effort.

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If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to contact the author and sponsor of our resolution, Tony Madrigal, Modesto City Council Member, District 2 at tmadrigal@modestogov.com or (209) 571-5597.

Sincerely,


GARRAD MARSH, Mayor

**MODESTO CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-62**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE ALTAMONT
CORRIDOR EXPRESS TO STANISLAUS COUNTY AND THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A TRAIN STOP IN THE CITY OF MODESTO**

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Finance the population for San Joaquin, Stanislaus, & Merced counties is the largest projected population growth in California; and

WHEREAS, employment opportunities in California are projected to increase most rapidly in Alameda, Santa Clara, and other Bay Area counties according to the California Department of Finance and

WHEREAS, Bay Area jobs will be increasingly filled by long-distance commuters as the cost of housing in the Bay Area increases; and

WHEREAS, new residents to the Central Valley will provide a boost to economic activity in the area in which they reside which includes increased direct local spending, more entrepreneurial talent, a substantial skilled and professional workforce, potential growth in business startups, and significant gains in job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Central Valley will be competing to attract these new residents with other nearby counties that have lower housing costs such as Contra Costa, Solano, and Yolo counties; and

WHEREAS, the annual overall commuter cost savings of using the ACE train versus vehicle transportation for work in the Bay Area is approximately \$11.85 million, and also represents an annual value of \$12.58 million in on-train paid work time for

current Central Valley commuters who currently ride ACE train, according to the 2014 Great Valley Center's Regional Economic Impact Report; and

WHEREAS, the current ACE train service with 4 daily trains provides transportation for 1.3 million people annually who ride the ACE train for work, business, connections to other forms of travel including air, & tourism; and the annual ACE train ridership is projected to increase to over 4 million riders with the ACE train expansion project which will add 6 more daily trains from Stanislaus County and Merced County to the Bay Area, for a total of 10 daily trains from Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties to the Bay Area which is project to increase ridership to 5.9 million annual riders by 2025; and

WHEREAS, ACEforward aims to run more frequent trains that will be more reliable, safer, and faster, and help reduce highway congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Improving connectivity with BART (in the Tri-Valley and other potential locations) and other transit services. In addition, by placing new train stations in existing downtowns ACEforward also serves as a mechanism to help Stanislaus County meet the regional and state sustainability goals under California Senate Bill 375 by diverting 42.8 million vehicle miles and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 23.7 million pounds based on current ridership and diverted vehicle miles is expected to grow to 84.1 million vehicle miles which will also account for an increased reduction in GHG to 45.5 million pounds by 2020, and will also place Modesto in a more competitive position for cap and trade funding, as well as provide downtown Modesto the opportunity to attract more transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, Stanislaus County is currently not a self-help county which has a voter-approved transportation tax as defined Federal and State Departments of Transportation and therefore cannot compete for the necessary Federal and State funding for ACE train expansion. Furthermore, the ACE train expansion into Stanislaus County with train stops in Modesto and Turlock will require a necessary investment of 12% of the funding derived from a one half cent countywide sales tax if approved by Stanislaus County voters, based on 25 years of funding, according the San Joaquin Rail Commission, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Federal Railroad Administration; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Modesto hereby supports the expansion of the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) train to Stanislaus County and the development of an ACE train stop in the City of Modesto's downtown district; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Modesto recognizes the importance of regional economic development and collaboration with our neighboring counties of San Joaquin and Merced benefit our City of Modesto residents as well as neighboring cities in Stanislaus County. Given the potential for regional economic growth, the City of Modesto supports the ACE train expansion into our neighboring communities which includes the development of ACE train stops in the cities of Manteca, Ripon, Modesto, Turlock, Livingston, and Merced; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Modesto supports the necessary funding at the federal, state, and local level, as available, and only after Council approval, for the ACE train expansion project into Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced counties; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Modesto directs the Mayor to send a letter to the President, Governor of California, State and Federal legislators in the San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties, and the Stanislaus Council of Governments urging support for the necessary funding for the ACE train expansion into San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Modesto directs the Mayor to send a letter to all Mayors and City Councils, County Boards of Supervisors, School Boards, and State and Federal legislators in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties, and the Stanislaus Council of Governments urging them to adopt a similar resolution.

The foregoing resolution was introduced in a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Modesto held on the 3rd day of March, 2015, by Councilmember Lopez, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Councilmember Madrigal, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers: Cogdill, Gunderson, Kenoyer, Lopez, Madrigal, Zoslocki, Mayor Marsh

NOES: Councilmembers: None

ABSENT: Councilmembers: None

ATTEST:


STEPHANIE LOPEZ, City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: 
ADAM U. LINDGREN, City Attorney