



Public Works

2009 2nd Quarter Highlights

Stanislaus County
Public Works

Volume I, Issue I
June 2009

State Budget Crisis - Potential Demise of Public Works

Submitted by Diane Haugh
Stanislaus County Public Works provides transportation/infrastructure services to the citizens of the County. Our mission is to manage and improve infrastructure through safe and efficient use of resources and assets for the benefit of our citizens. We do this through innovative stewardship of infrastructure and environment.

While Public Works is comprised of five separate divisions, all are in support of our core focus of transportation. Our two most visible divisions are Transit and Road Operations. The other divisions, Administration, Engineering, and Morgan Shop, provide direct support to Transit and Road Operations.

Road and Bridge Operations is

responsible for maintaining approximately 1,600 miles of County roadway. This includes patching, drainage basins, bridge maintenance, tree maintenance, center and edge line striping, legend painting, weed abatement, shoulder maintenance, and traffic sign and signal maintenance. Operations also provide maintenance services to County Service Areas and Landscape and Lighting Districts.

In addition to general maintenance, Public Works provides many services that have a direct impact on the health and safety of our residents. During inclement weather you will find our crews in the rain, pumping storm water from flooded roads, placing warning barricades, and closing roads or removing rockslides. We often work with

emergency personnel at accident sites; providing traffic control, cleaning up spills, and removing debris.

The Road Operations budget is funded primarily through the State Highway Users Tax Account (Gas Tax). For every gallon of motor vehicle fuel sold in California the State collects 18 cents of state fuel excise tax. Of those 18 cents, Counties receive 3.23 cents. The apportionment to individual counties is based primarily on the County's share of registered vehicles and county road mileage. A small portion (less than 6%, or 1.04 cents) is allocated based on registered vehicles, assessed property valuation, and population.

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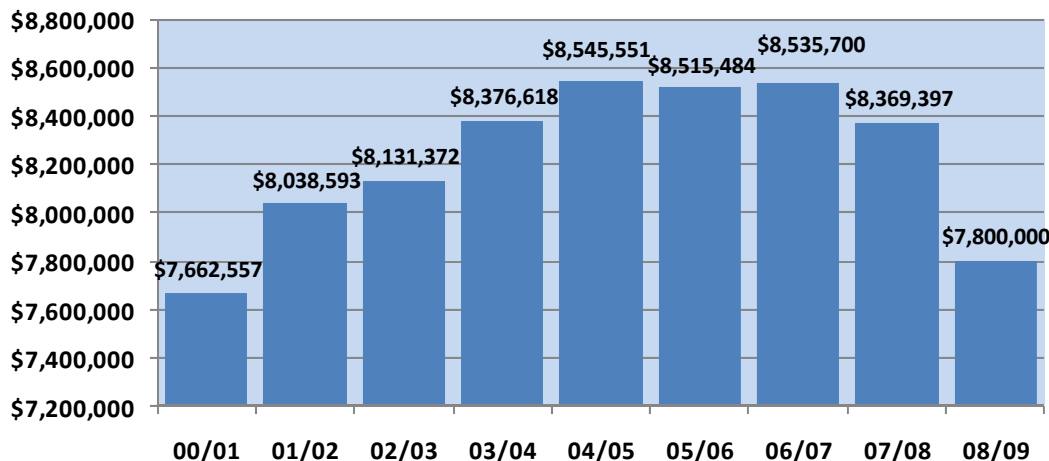
New Tenth Street Place
3rd Floor
Office Hours
Effective 5/26/09
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

"Safety Byte"

Submitted by Laura Janovich
It is a good time to be cleaning out those medicine cabinets of expired or unused medications and vitamins. You can drop them off at the Morgan Road Hazardous waste facility FREE of charge on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Public Works is now 103 days without a reportable accident/injury!

Highway Users Tax (Gas Tax)



State Budget Crisis - Potential Demise of Public Works (cont'd)

Prior to Fiscal Year 2008-2009, Stanislaus County's allocation of Highway User's Tax (HUTA) experienced steady, if small, annual increases of approximately 2.5%. Unfortunately, the existing economic crisis has severely impacted this revenue source. Fiscal Year 2008/2009 receipts are expected to be \$7.8 million. This is a decrease from the previous year of nearly 7%. As shown in the chart on page 1, the HUTA level of funding has not been this low since Fiscal Year 2000/2001. Unfortunately, as revenues have decreased, costs to provide road services have increased, further diminishing buying power.

The other major source of revenue for Road Operations is Proposition 42 funds. Proposition 42, passed by voters in March 2002, is a constitutional dedication of the sales tax revenues on gasoline for transportation purposes.

Stanislaus County receives approximately \$4.9 million of Proposition 42 funds annually. Due to escalating costs and reduced HUTA revenues, a large portion of Proposition 42 funding supports road operations and maintenance.

The chart below clearly demonstrates the extent to which Stanislaus County relies on Highway Users Tax and Proposition 42 funding to support Road Operations and Maintenance. Nearly 99% of funding comes from these two sources.

Possible Effects of the State Budget Crisis

One of the suggestions the State of California's Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) has made in order to balance the State's budget is to "borrow" transportation funds, including HUTA and Proposition 42. The loss of these funds would be catastrophic to Stanislaus

County residents. As stated previously these two funding sources make up nearly 99% of Public Works Road Operations' maintenance budget for labor, equipment and materials. In the absence of these funds, there are no funds available for even basic services.

HUTA and Proposition 42 funds are critical to the provision of the most basic of services including providing power to signal lights and street lights, replacement and repair of damaged or stolen traffic signs, and the maintenance of drainage systems and roadways in operable condition. There would be no staff available to man road closures, no funding for flood control or response, and no accident response. **The loss of both of these critical funding sources would extremely cripple Public Works and the basic services as we know it today could cease to exist.** This move would place at risk the safety of the citizens of Stanislaus County.

The specific proposal presented by the LAO is to borrow the entire portion of the HUTA in 2009-2010. The State would have to pay the money back, but is not required to repay with interest. The State's economic condition raises serious concern as to whether the State would ever be

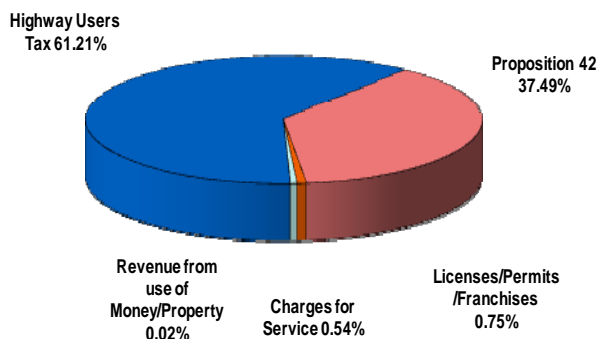
able to repay these funds. The Department of Finance (DOF) also has advanced a HUTA-related proposal which would permanently redirect virtually the entire county and city share of the 18-cent gas tax to pay for highway debt bond service. The current DOF proposal, which would permanently redirect these funds from counties on an ongoing basis to finance General Fund debt service, would dramatically impact Stanislaus County Public Works' ability to meet the mobility and safety needs of the public.

The LAO is also proposing to use Proposition 42 funds to help solve the state budget deficit. Specifically, they are recommending suspending a total of \$1.15 billion in Proposition 42 funding, \$225 million of which would be a direct hit to counties. Should this proposal be implemented Stanislaus County would receive only \$1.5 million of the expected \$4.9 million of Proposition 42 funding for the current year.

Even more devastating, however, is the LAO proposal to permanently repeal voter approved Proposition 42 in 2010-11. This action would mean a loss of \$4.9 million for Stanislaus County Public Works in 2010-11 and an equal amount, if not more, in future years.

(cont'd on page 3)

Stanislaus County
Annual Road Fund Revenues



State Budget Crisis... (cont'd)

Some are suggesting that the remaining \$450 million in county local streets and roads monies from Proposition 1B would provide some mitigation in the above-mentioned cuts or suspensions. While any funding is better than none, this would replace less than 30% of the lost funding. In addition, Proposition 1B revenues would only mitigate the loss for the first year.

In addition to the losses in Road and Bridge operations, Stanislaus County would also have no available funding for leveraging of federal dollars for road construction projects. There would be no funding for engineering or administrative staff to process projects, putting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects at risk.

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) represents every county in the state in their unequivocal opposition of any proposal to shift local revenue to the state, including the HUTA. CSAC provides counties with continual legislative updates and encourages urgent communication with legislators through letters and resolutions. CSAC continues to make extraordinary outreach efforts to educate the Governor, members of the Legislature, and all Californians-especially voters-about the catastrophic consequences adopting this proposal would cause.

Public Works Projects Information

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

Submitted by David Leamon
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed by the president on February 17, 2009. This Act provided Stanislaus County approximately \$6.3 million for use on our county roads that are Federal Aid eligible. These roads are our majors such as Keyes Road, Lake Road, and Grayson Road.

Due to tight deadlines, we decided to implement a project that would minimize environmental impacts so we selected a cape seal treatment. A cape seal is a two-part slurry seal over a 3/8" chip seal, with the contractor performing the patching and skim paving. We expect to have our money this summer, bid the project out in August and go to construction in the Spring of 2010.

We are excited about this project as we will be able to treat approximately 125 to 150 miles of roads.



Chip Sealing

Salida Boulevard Corridor Project

Submitted by Chris Brady
In the fall of 2008, work began on Salida Boulevard in Salida. The goal of the Salida Boulevard Corridor project was to improve the drainage facilities along the boulevard from the southern end near Pelandale to the northern end at Kieran Avenue. The project also included upgrading the traffic signal equipment at the intersection of Salida Boulevard and Broadway Avenue and placing an asphalt concrete overlay along Salida Boulevard and on Broadway Avenue.

Project completion is scheduled for June 10, 2009.



Salida Boulevard

Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)

Submitted by Gary Hayward
Our maintenance teams in the Roads Division have recently completed the prep work on 28 miles of RSTP roads. The prep work consists of tree trimming, shoulder grading and fill or removal of dirt to leave a clean and smooth shoulder (cont'd next column)

when finished. The culvert pipelines that are under the road were replaced when needed. This work will improve the drainage, eliminate drop offs at the edge of pavement and provide an area for vehicles to pull off in an emergency.

Our teams also skip paved the roads smoothing out rough areas and filling in the potholes. All that is left is for the contractor that was awarded the contract for the RSTP is to put the finishing touches to these roads. That will be an asphalt overlay with new center and edgeline striping.



Submitted by Peou Khiek

Effective 6/12/09, you can access the website for Geographical Information System (GIS). Here's the link:
www.gis.stancounty.com

This site will provide information such as:

1. Aerials (2008 and 2006)
2. Parcel information
3. Board of Supervisors' information
4. Assessors information (APN mapbook and inquiry)
5. Tax information
6. Zoning and general plan information
7. Williamson Act information
8. Flood Zone information



Stanislaus County Public Works

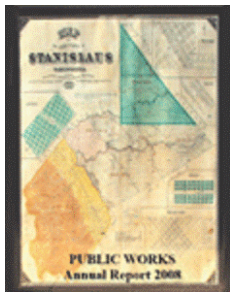
Public Works
1010 10th Street, Suite 3500
Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: 209-525-6550
Fax: 209-525-6507

Public Works Morgan Road
1716 Morgan Road
Modesto, CA 95358
Phone: 209-525-4130
Fax: 209-525-4140

E-mail: publicworks@stancounty.com



Public Works received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board of Supervisors for a Successful Safety Incentive Program. Matt Machado praised our department by saying, "Thank you for your continuous improvement and commitment to safety. Great job!"



To access our Public Works 2008 Annual Report, go to <http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/pdf/annual-report-2008.pdf>



Staff Updates



Transit Division's website is: www.srt.org/

Passengers may call StaRT at 1-800-262-1516 for more information.

StaRT will be updating bus schedules effective 8/3/09. To request new Ride Guides, you can call 1-800-262-1516 or submit your request via the StaRT website at www.srt.org/



Retirement:

Sharon Rivera (31 years), John Sanchez (34 years), Saunders Phillips (19 years), and Terry Hasten (34 years). **Thank you for your service!**

Promotions:

Linda Allsop - Staff Services Analyst, Contract Administrator in the Construction Division

Darren Teeples - Roads Supervisor Patterson Worker Paving Crew

Jeff Rufo - Senior Road Maintenance Worker Paving Crew

Janelle Godinez - Admin Secretary Design Div

Juan Maldonado - Road Maintenance Worker III

Keith Wilcox - Road Maintenance Worker III

Eric Moore - Road Maintenance Worker III

Wes Eslinger - Road Maintenance Worker II

Mario Acosta - Road Maintenance Worker II

Phil Harley - Lead Equipment Mechanic

Congratulations!

New Employees:

Karlotta Sanchez - Admin Clerk

Donal Hicks - Consultant, Engineering

Joel Flores - Eng Aid I Interfacing with GIS

Angela Brooks - Eng Aid I Design Div

Brett Johnsen - Road Maintenance Worker I

Sylvia Jones - Admin Assistant III Admin Div

Firoz Vohra - Manager III, Engineering

Welcome to our team!

Babies:

Chris Brady: Rory Kathryn Brady

Brent Bonander: Evan Bonander

Joe Melo: Daniel David Melo

James Sanchez: Rebecca Ann Marie Sanchez

Angie Halverson: Carissa Ann Faith Halverson

Best wishes!!



We're on the web: www.stancounty.com/publicworks