



“In the Works”

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

**Stanislaus County
Public Works**

Volume 3, Issue 1
March 2011

Stanislaus County’s #1 Asset and #1 Liability

Submitted by Matt Machado

Stanislaus County Public Works maintains approximately 1,600 miles of roads and nearly 250 bridges. This is easily one of the largest assets that the County owns. Not surprisingly this number one asset is also the number one liability. Over the past seven years there have been over 1,800 roadway accidents per year on the average. These 1,800 accidents have resulted in an average of 27 fatalities per year on County roads. Additionally, over the past five years Stanislaus County has received 207 roadway claims resulting in a payout of over \$1,700,000. These claims have resulted in 29 lawsuits, many still ongoing.

So what is being done about protecting this vital asset? In 2010 Public Works resurfaced 195 miles of roads and for the past four years have averaged more than 130 miles per year. In addition to our resurfacing program we have aggressively pursued bridge upgrade projects, roadway safety

projects and congestion relief projects. To accomplish these programs we have used local dollars to leverage state and federal funds. A summary of our leveraging success is as follows:

- 2007 - \$3.4 million was leveraged
- 2008 - \$7.1 million was leveraged
- 2009 - \$10.8 million was leveraged
- 2010 - \$12.5 million was leveraged

Even with this continued effort and successful leveraging of funds to improve our transportation system we continue to have needs beyond our resources. The average roadway condition is rated at poor, with more than a dozen bridges in need of major repair or replacement.

Continuing public education regarding our system and needs, and a strong local, state and federal advocacy effort will be needed to see any real improvement on this vital asset.

* * *

Inside this issue:

<i>Transit News for Spring 2011</i>	2
<i>What’s New in GIS? (Geographical Information System)</i>	2
<i>Five Dollars and a Gallon of Gas - A County Savings Story</i>	3
<i>Relay for Life</i>	4
<i>In Memoriam</i>	4
<i>Public Works Staff Updates</i>	4

Every Day is a New Safety Record!

Submitted by Laura Janovich

On February 8, 2011, our consecutive accident free days set a new record for the Public Works Department. The old record was an amazing task in itself at 228 consecutive days accident free. We continue to set a new record with each day that passes and we remain accident free. Not only has the Safety Incentive Program proved to be profitable for everyone, but it has also encouraged all of us to increase our safety awareness.



phones, fatigue, and numerous other obstacles, motorists create an unsafe environment for our Road Workers as they repair roads, respond to emergencies, and improve the County’s infrastructure. Mother nature even tries to bring our team down with high winds, floods, and extreme temperatures. But still, we remain accident free and go home to our families — unharmed.

The safety “Blackout” game was started, as a celebration, on the day we broke our record of accident free days. It was an idea brought to us by a Road Maintenance Worker. As we approach more milestones, any ideas to spice up the game are welcomed.

Congratulations to all and continued success. Good job!!

* * *

In these times of budget cuts and being asked to accomplish more with less, our team has risen to the challenge. Neither rain nor winds nor the heat of summer has brought our team down. The Roads Division faces risk every day as they are placed in hazardous situations as part of their daily duties. Distracted by cell

Ethics Quotes

Wayne Dyer:

“Live one day at a time emphasizing ethics rather than rules.”

"Health & Safety Byte"

Submitted by Laura Janovich

Being prepared for an emergency can be the difference between life and death. Have a plan and share it with your family. Have a "grab kit" ready to go containing all the essentials to keep you, your family and pets safe for at least 72 hours. Practice your plan. Have a meeting place designated in case you are separated. Talk about "What If" scenarios.

* * *

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

Transit News for Spring 2011

Submitted by Brad Christian

The big news in the Transit Division has been the installation of electronic fareboxes in all of the StaRT buses! This has been quite a project involving coordination with StaRT’s contractor, the vendor, GFI Genfare, and division staff. Doralee Boles and Annette Borrelli were very busy with training and outreach for the project including hands-on training at the downtown Modesto Transit Center. Stacie Morales was also busy designing the tickets and various marketing items to help get the word out to StaRT passengers.



Phase II of the Proposition 1-B funded Patterson Transfer Facility project is the installation of a restroom adjacent to the Patterson bus transfer facility. This will be going to the Patterson City Council and County Board of Supervisors for approval in the upcoming months. The project is due to be completed this summer.

purchase of a new, more passenger-comfortable bus for the StaRT Medivan. The Division is also the lead agency on another regional project, the Countywide Transportation Guide that will be completed in early summer.

The Transit Division has also begun its big spring/summer outreach. The Division has already participated in the Modesto Senior Safe Banking event, Salvation Army’s Care & Share event, Riverbank’s Beyond Earth Day and Modesto Junior College’s and Modesto’s Earth Day events. Upcoming events include Probation’s Open House, Modesto’s Bike to Work Day and Senior events in Oakdale, Newman and Turlock.

The units were installed at the end of January and went live on January 31, 2011. Customers have been very happy with the new units since they no longer have to have exact fare. Now they can get a “change card” for future use! The implementation has been quite successful and, as other operators get on board with electronic fareboxes, it will provide the opportunity for a countywide transit pass for all the County’s transit operators! Good job, Doralee, Annette, and Stacie!

Also, after some technical issues delays, the **Easy Rider** Trip Planner will soon be available on the StaRT website, www.srt.org. This Countywide trip planner will make planning fixed route rides in Stanislaus County much easier. **Easy Rider** will also be available on the other County Transit Operators’ websites. This regional project involves all the County’s transit operators with the County Public Works Transit Division being the lead agency on the project. This project is funded with federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) economic stimulus funds.

As you can see, along with services changes, a proposed fare increase and budgets, it will be a busy spring and summer for the Transit Division!

Transit Division’s website is: www.srt.org

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

What’s New in GIS?

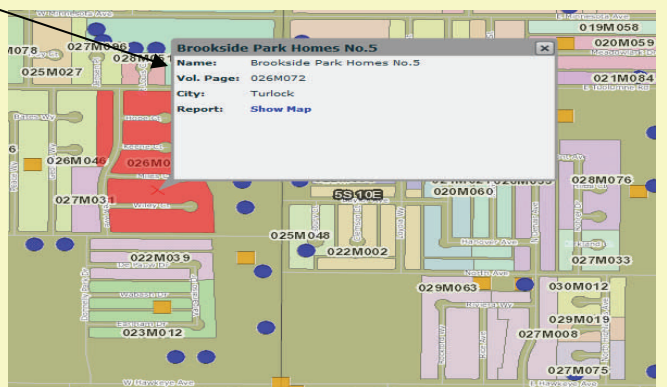
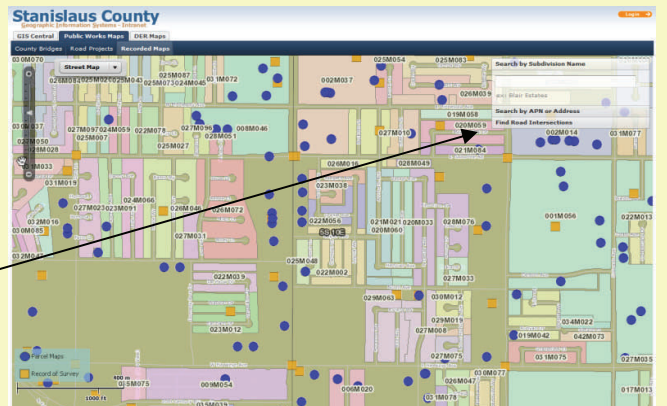
Submitted by Aron Harris

GIS Central has added a new Look-Up Tool to our online GIS application. Now you can find Recorded Maps online with the same familiar tools you use in Parcel Inquiry Map application. The new Stanislaus County Recorded Maps application gives you the ability to search for Subdivisions, Record of Survey, and Parcel Maps without even having to know the name or map numbers.

You can:

- 1.) “Search by” address, APN, and road intersection; once you find the address or intersection it will zoom you in and turn on the Subdivisions, Parcel Maps, and Record of Survey.
- 2.) Choose the one you want and double click on it. It will give the Name, Volume and Page, City, and Link to the recorded map in PDF format that you can download and print if needed.

Contact GIS Central at: <http://gis.stancounty.com/giscentral/public/aboutUs.jsp?main=7> or call 209.525.4130.



Search by Subdivision Name

ex: Blair Estates

Search by APN or Address

Find Road Intersections

1.) “Search by” box is where you enter your query.

Five Dollars and a Gallon of Gas - A County Savings Story

Submitted by Olivia Tanner

If you ask people today what five dollars could buy, you might get answers like a \$5 foot-long from Subway, a paperback book, a Little Caesar's large pizza, a DVD from Wal-Mart, and a little over a gallon of gas. It is unbelievable that five dollars can buy a little over a gallon of gas! Who would have thought that to fill an average midsize vehicle with 12 gallons of unleaded fuel it would cost almost \$60? It costs almost \$15 to fill an average lawnmower with three gallons of unleaded gas.



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), in California the average cost of regular unleaded fuel this year is \$3.51 per gallon. The average cost of diesel fuel is \$3.83 per gallon. Using these statistics to calculate the cost of fuel I put into my Dodge Grand Caravan, it is almost \$250 a month. My van holds 18 gallons of gas, and I have to fill it up weekly. Most families own two cars, so double that cost and you will get an idea of how much a family spends on gas per month.

Gas prices have skyrocketed. According to the EIA, in 2010, the average cost of unleaded fuel in California was \$3.09 per gallon. The cost has increased \$0.42 per gallon this year. The average cost of diesel in 2010 was \$3.16 per gallon. The cost has increased \$0.67 per gallon this year.

What does this have to do with saving the County money? Public Works Morgan Shop owns about 200 pieces of heavy and light duty equipment that are rented to various Public Works' Divisions. Fuel is included in the rental cost. The equipment can take anywhere from 1 to 160 gallons of unleaded, diesel, or compressed natural (CNG) gas. That is quite a bit of gas and at about \$4.00 per gallon, also quite expensive.

After completing a cost benefit analysis, it was decided that it would be beneficial to construct a fuel station that would provide all the fuel needed for Morgan Shop's equipment and to various other County departments and local jurisdictions. This would help reduce the rising costs of fuel by offering a lower cost per gallon of gas. For example, the average cost of unleaded fuel in 2010 at the Morgan Shop fuel station was \$2.75 per gallon compared to the California average of \$3.09 per gallon. That is an approximate \$0.34 savings per gallon. We issued about 206,055 gallons of unleaded gas to County departments and local jurisdictions. The total savings to the departments and local jurisdictions was about \$70,059 if you compare it to the California average for 2010. (See table labeled "2010").

Morgan Shop's average cost of diesel fuel in 2010 was \$2.68 per gallon compared to the California average of \$3.16 per gallon. That was an approximate savings of \$0.48 per gallon. We issued 260,447 gallons of diesel fuel in 2010. The total savings to the County departments and local jurisdictions was an estimated \$125,015 if you compare it to the California average. (See table labeled "2010").

In 2010 and with the Federal Government's Alternative Fuel Tax Credit rebate, Morgan Shop was able to save County departments and local jurisdictions \$98,962 in CNG costs with 197,923 gallons issued. The grand total savings for County departments and local jurisdictions for 2010 was \$275,804. The cost of fuel obtained from the Morgan Road station does not include costs associated with profit or marketing and distribution. As a government entity, the County is also exempt from certain taxes. That is why Public

Works Morgan Shop is able to provide lower gas prices to our customers. NOTE: We can only provide fuel to government entities and not to the public or County employees.

2010				
Type	Morgan Avg Cost Per Gallon	California Avg Cost Per Gallon	Total Gallons Issued	Savings
Unleaded	\$2.75	\$3.09	206,055	\$70,059
DSL	\$2.68	\$3.16	260,447	\$125,015

The diesel and unleaded fuel stations were installed in 2004 and 2005. The CNG station was installed in 2002. Public Works Morgan Shop has been saving the County costs associated with diesel and unleaded fuels for six to seven years respectively. It has been nine years of saving the County costs associated with CNG. Currently Public Works Morgan Shop provides fuels to 62 different County departments and local jurisdictions.



Gas prices are expected to continue to rise. Gone are the days when you were able to dig a dollar out of your ashtray to buy a gallon of gas. Public Works Morgan Shop is constantly working to save the County as much as possible when it comes to purchasing fuel. With savings, Morgan Shop can continue to keep the equipment fueled. With equipment fueled, the Public Works Department can continue to work to provide safe and reliable roads and bridges. Other departments and local jurisdictions can continue to bring the public safe, affordable, and reliable services.


Morgan Shop Fuel 2011 As of April 1, 2011		
Type	Avg Cost Per Gallon	Total Gallons Issued
Unleaded	\$3.24	48,392
DSL	\$3.53	14,139
CNG	\$0.72	63,083

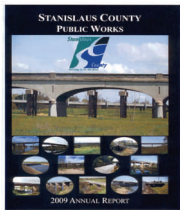
Source for statistics in this article: <http://www.eia.gov>

Public Works
1716 Morgan Road
Modesto, CA 95358
Phone: 209-525-4130
Fax: 209-541-2505

1010 10th Street, Suite 4204
Modesto, CA 95354
www.stancounty.com/publicworks

Articles by Public Works Writers

Published by Keimi Espinoza 



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

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

**National Public Works Week is
May 15th to 21st**

In Memoriam



Chuck Kincaid
7/24/45—1/16/11



Janelle Godínez
6/28/77—2/14/11



Bernard
"Skip" Frazier
7/18/42—3/23/11

**"We miss you in so many ways,
We miss the things you used to say,
And when old times we do recall,
It's then we miss you most of all."**

Author Unknown

Relay for Life 2011 Team

Submitted by Julie Serrano



Please join us on May 14th or 15th! We will be out supporting the American Cancer Society with our participation in the 2011 Modesto Relay for Life. **This walk is to honor survivors of Cancer and to remember all those we have lost to this horrible disease.** "Team Debbie" is comprised of three County departments (Public Works, Planning, and LAFCO), a few individuals from other County departments, and non-County participants.

The Relay will take place at Johansen High School in Modesto on May 14th and 15th. It is 24-hour walk around the track at the school. The walk starts at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning with the survivors' lap, and the last lap is walked on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. As night falls the track will be decorated with Luminarias which can be purchased for a \$10.00 donation. Luminarias are lunch size white bags with candles in them. They will be decorated by you to celebrate someone who has survived cancer or you can honor someone if they lost their battle with cancer.

Julie Serrano will be at the track for the entire 24-hours. She will have chairs and tables set up during the day so you can relax. At night, she will have a tent set up for team members to rest or relax in if they want to split their walking times. There will be games, information, lots of fun and food for purchase at this event. Sorry, no dogs are allowed.

Currently we only have 15 walkers signed up on our team. It is preferred to have someone from our team on the track for every hour of the 24-hour event. If you decide you would like to join our team, you can take an hour lap time, or if you are really energetic you can take several hours. "Team Debbie" members are: Julie Serrano (Team Captain), Linda Allsop, Frank Serrano, Diane Rodrigues, Keimi Espinoza, Debbie Hamilton, Marjorie Blom, Ally Elder, Jon Brandt, Sharon Andrews, Kirk Nichols, Seth Lowman, Sylvia Jones, Yolanda Magdaleno, Gabriella Jones, Todd Jones, and Lisa Cardozo.

We really need more walkers. Please check your calendars and join our team. If you already have plans or just can't walk, please help out by supporting one of our walkers. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Staff Updates

New Great-Grandson and Grandsons:

Judy Lindsay (Senior Engineering Tech) has a new great-grandson. Trent Anglin was born on February 1, 2011.

John Ramazzina (Road Maintenance Worker) has a new grandson. Johnathan Ramazzina was born on February 16, 2011.

Randy Avants (Road Supervisor) has a new grandson. Noah Riley was born on February 17, 2011.

Best wishes and congratulations!

