



“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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Getting to know the Development Services Division Team



**Frederic Clark, Deputy Director
 Development Services Division**

Most people think of County Public Works as the construction and maintenance of the public road system. In fact, it is much more than that. This article will focus on public service, not the general public service that the construction and maintenance of the public road system provides, but the public service provided to the private citizens and businesses that develop or improve their land, and private citizens which utilize public transit as their means of transportation. The Development Services Division of Public Works is charged with providing this individualized form of public service in five distinct functions: Land Development, Right of Way Permitting, Storm Drainage, Traffic, and Transit.

Land development occurs on private property and generally requires some improvements within the County right of way as frontage improvements, e.g. the installation of curb, gutter and sidewalk, streetlights, street widening, or driveways. The Division provides encroachment permits and inspection for all non-County work within the County right of way, and transportation permits for the movement of non-standard, e.g. wide, long, tall, or heavy loads over the County’s road network. The Division implements storm drainage regulations through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit throughout the County with emphasis on the urbanized areas within the ‘Red Zone’. The Traffic Unit provides review and analysis to proposed changes to the transportation network, whether they are generated by private development or

within the construction and maintenance functions of Public Works. The Transit Unit is responsible for a functional transit service which provides for the transportation needs of a wide range of demographics within the County.

The Board of Supervisors has directed that County government provide a One Stop Permit Center to facilitate private development. The Development Services Division is located at 1010 10th Street in downtown Modesto in support of the One Stop Permit Center at this location. We provide engineering review, support, and regulation to land use entitlements; improvement plans, both on site and off site; building permits; grading permits; storm drainage quality and quantity designs, and erosion and sediment control plans.

To sum up the purpose of Development Services is to say it exists to facilitate needs of private citizens and businesses. We work to guide development through the regulatory process, ensuring that regulations are followed, but also helping them find the most expedient way to ‘yes’. Success is measured both by when the County economy is grown by investment in and construction of new facilities, and by the provision of an effective and efficient transit system.



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Development Services Team

Land Development Unit



Dedication for additional right of way. Staff attends Environmental Review Committee, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisor meetings in this phase.

Once the project obtains its entitlements (approvals to proceed with development), it enters the Design Phase. Staff works directly with the applicant and their design team on the elements which must be included in the project plans. The design team creates the plans, staff reviews the plans and advises the design team of corrections needed. This is an iterative process that goes until the plans meet all pertinent County codes and specifications, at which point the plans are finalized and approved by the County for construction. This phase also involves right of way documents; annexations to Community Service Areas and Lighting Districts; and construction agreements and bonding if a land division is involved prior to construction. During the Design Phase staff will coordinate with other Public Works divisions about storm drainage, roads and traffic issues so that the final improvement fits within or adds to the existing networks. Staff also coordinates with other County Departments on water, sanitation, planning, landscaping, open space, and maintenance issues. Also, if the project involves a division of land, staff coordinates with the County Surveyor for map checking and filing. This phase can also involve taking implementing document approvals (Parcel Maps, Final Maps, Subdivision Improvement Agreements) to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Finally, the project is ready for construction.

The Land Development Unit is staffed by Deputy Director Frederic Clark and Assistant Engineer Ramon Salinas. Our primary duty is to facilitate private property land development to meet County codes and specifications regarding site grading, access, utilities, and drainage.

Land development has three primary phases: entitlements, design, and construction. In the Entitlements Phase the project is reviewed and conditions of approval are written to bring the project into conformance with County codes and specifications, e.g. construct a driveway to County standards, or grant an Irrevocable Offer of

tion. In the Construction Phase construction agreements, bonding, and insurance documents are processed; grading and encroachment permits are issued; and the work is inspected by the encroachment permit inspectors. Staff works with the project applicant and their design and construction teams to resolve unforeseen or changed conditions. To the degree possible we work collaboratively with the applicant and their design and construction teams to find the most expedient way to construct a project (getting to YES), while still ensuring that regulations are followed.



Development Services Team

Storm Drain Unit



duce localized flooding and increase groundwater supplies. This was funded by a Prop 1 Grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. Both she and Mike are working with consultant GeoSystems Analysis for a Phase I Evaluation of Stormwater Management and Groundwater Recharge Projects in the Dry Creek Watershed. This is funded by a Prop 1 Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Grant from the Department of Water Resources. An initial assessment of possible locations for stormwater retention and groundwater recharge has been made and will be evaluated more completely in the coming year. Dhyan

The Storm Drain Unit is staffed by Program Manager Dhyan Gilton, Contract Engineer Michael Brinton, Engineer Ben Kozlow, and Ramon Salinas-Assistant Engineer. Our primary duty has consistently been to maintain full compliance with Stanislaus County's NPDES MS4 Storm Water Permit from the State Water Quality Control Board. There are program requirements such as annual testing of storm water quality being discharged into the Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers, reporting to the State of adherence to the Permit, and review and commenting on renewing the Permit and proposed regulations. The water quality testing includes both Dry Weather and Wet Weather water quality monitoring conducted at locations throughout the County. The data from the laboratory that is produced from this monitoring will help identify and prioritize water quality issues and allow us to focus on the areas of greatest need.

In addition to the primary focus of maintaining the County's NPDES MS4 Storm Water Permit, Dhyan Gilton works on storm drain related projects. She recently completed development of the County Storm Water Resources Plan. This Plan supports and promotes the capture and reuse of stormwater runoff as a resource to re-

duce localized flooding and increase groundwater supplies. This was funded by a Prop 1 Grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. Both she and Mike are working with consultant GeoSystems Analysis for a Phase I Evaluation of Stormwater Management and Groundwater Recharge Projects in the Dry Creek Watershed. This is funded by a Prop 1 Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Grant from the Department of Water Resources. An initial assessment of possible locations for stormwater retention and groundwater recharge has been made and will be evaluated more completely in the coming year. Dhyan

continues to work with development related to the cannabis industry to assure that development is in accordance with County regulations and pollutants are not entering our waterways.

Mike Brinton provides broad support on storm drain and flood related issues. He is currently administering a contract for the Grayson Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study. This study will provide alternatives to minimize the flood risk to the Community of Grayson and to Grayson Road. In the past Grayson Road has flooded frequently during high intensity storms, preventing access to Modesto for medical emergencies. He is also working with River Partners to coordinate County efforts with their River Bend Project on the San Joaquin River north of the Community of Grayson.

Citizen complaints regarding storm water crossing property lines or being directed into the street are investigated by Ben Kozlow. This may include collaborating with the Roads Department regarding culverts, ditches and historical flows. Ben monitors and implements enforcement actions undertaken to correct storm water violations.

Transit Division



vice to address the varying needs of riders. These include:

- ♦ Fixed Route, which are bus stops along a designated route with fixed times.
- ♦ Demand Response, which is curb-to-curb service with the rider making a reservation.
- ♦ ADA Paratransit Service, which provides door-to-door service with a reservation for riders within ¼ of a mile of existing fixed route service who are unable to navigate the public bus system.
- ♦ Medivan Service, which takes passengers from Modesto to Bay Area Medical Facilities.
- ♦ Bart Commuter Service, which transports commuters from Turlock and Patterson to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

Transit is a highly regulated public service. Each of the staff members provides a piece of the puzzle to bring about a functioning system, including route planning; bus stop siting and improvements; contracting with the bus operator; monitoring system performance; fare setting, collection and reporting; purchasing of busses and bus stops; analyzing system

The Transit Unit is staffed by Program Manager Annette Borelli, Staff Services Coordinator Darla Moen, Staff Services Analyst Maria Hermenegildo, Transit Planner Lucien Musso, and contract planner Doralee Boles. Public transportation benefits many individuals, communities and the local economy by connecting citizens to work, school, shopping, as well as various appointments. Public transportation reduces air pollution, reduces traffic congestion, increases fuel efficiency and increases mobility. Public transportation helps increase the productivity of labor by reducing travel time and out-of-pocket costs of commuters in congested areas.

The Transit system is comprised of different types of ser-

needs and making adjustments to the service routes; marketing; and reporting to funding agencies.

The Transit Unit defines its primary objective as providing efficient and reliable public transportation for the citizens throughout Stanislaus County.

Transit Division's website is:
[**www.srt.org**](http://www.srt.org)
For route info call *StaRT* at
1-800-262-1516



Development Services Team

Right of Way Permitting Unit



The Right of Way Permitting Unit is staffed by permit writer Patty Ramirez, and field inspectors James De Jong and Amber Minami. Together, in 2019 they processed 468 encroachment permits, 385 annual transportation permits, 879 daily transportation permits, and 9 pipeline maintenance agreements.

Patty works with the clients to issue daily/annual transportation permits, encroachment permits, and pipeline maintenance agreements. She provides staff support in the areas of plan reviews, traffic plan coordination, and encroachment inspections. As a Notary Public, she notarizes Pipeline Maintenance Agreements and Irrevocable Offers of Dedication. The field inspectors, Amber and James, provide input into the conditions of approval of the permit to protect the functionality of all improvements in the County right of way, and they inspect such work or activity so that it is completed in accordance to approved plans and the County Improvement Standards. Written notice or a telephone call/message to schedule encroachment work typically requires a minimum of forty-eight (48-hours) prior to the commencement of any work.

Teamwork is crucial to the high volume of work accomplished. Together they collaborate to create the permits with an eye towards site-specific conditions which affect the requirements of the permit. To stay organized and maintain efficiency they set goals, establish clear lines of responsibility, prioritize projects, and create weekly/monthly work plans. Collaboration also occurs between Right of Way Permitting and Underground Service Alert (USA) mark-outs technician Juan Maldonado. Juan provides notification of USA locations which staff checks against Encroachment Permit locations. This helps the inspectors to find unpermitted work in the field.

The Right of Way Permitting Unit defines its purpose as assisting non-County entities process project applications and permits in a timely manner that is fair, efficient, progressive, cost effective, accurate, and in an environment, that will accommodate development projects within the boundaries of the County's overall policies, standards, goals, and objectives.



Development Services Team

Traffic Unit



study the capacity of intersections and roadways. Additionally, the traffic unit reviews potential impacts from development projects and supports other engineering divisions. We manage a traffic signal system of approximately 50 traffic signals throughout the County.

The traffic engineering division uses a handful of different devices to collect traffic volumes, vehicle classification, and speeds. Additionally, collision history is reviewed to identify unsafe driver behavior patterns. Staff then analyzes the data and will make recommendations for improvements to the roadway, signals, intersections, or other traffic-related features. As an example, a citizen request was received to place a sign to commemorate a bicyclist killed by a motorist. Realizing that this could be a request often received, staff researched how other jurisdictions and Caltrans handles this situation,

The Traffic Unit is staffed by Senior Civil Engineer Andrew Malizia, Senior Engineering Technicians Francis Baldonado and Danny Mauricio, and contract engineer Mark Murphy. Traffic Engineering manages the safety and operations of the county road system. We respond to citizen requests for traffic related concerns, as well as

analyzed what would work for Stanislaus County, wrote a policy to accommodate these types of requests, and are currently obtaining the necessary approvals to implement this policy.

The Traffic Unit defines its primary objective as keeping drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians safe.

Public Works-What We've Been Up To

New Employees		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Start</u>
Steven Feister	RMWI	Feb 1
Thomas Avila	Heavy Equip Mech I	Feb 18
Sione Lolohea	RMWI	Feb 18
Ben Packer	RMWI	Feb 24
Transfers		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position (from)</u>	<u>Start</u>
Amber Minami	(DER) Senior Eng Tech	Jan 4
Nuno Espadinha	(DER) RMWI	Feb 18
Garrett Richey	(Parks) RMWI	Feb 18
Lucien Musso	(DER) Transit Planner	March 2



**170 Days
Accident Free**

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