

FY 2022 One Voice[®] Project Request

RIPON MULTI-MODAL STATION

Project Summary:

The City of Ripon has made a significant investment in alternative modes of transportation. In 1999, Ripon first expanded the City's bikeway system to a regional destination by the construction of a bike bridge, spanning one of the area's largest obstacles - the Stanislaus River. With the construction of the Stanislaus River Bike Bridge, bicyclists can travel between Stanislaus County and the City of Ripon. In 2012, the City purchased its' first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus and began operating a fixed route bus service. This bus service provides Ripon residents access to local and regional destinations in Stanislaus County, including Vintage Fair Mall and Kaiser Permanente Hospital. Ripon's bus service also serves as an important regional connection for San Joaquin County bus ridership to Stanislaus County.

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is planning a major expansion of its Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) train service. This expansion, which has been termed "ACE Forward", includes extending train service to Modesto by 2018, and to Merced by 2024. It is expected this new service extension would include a stop in Ripon that would be integrated as part of Ripon's planned multi-modal station.

The City of Ripon is proposing to construct a 7,000 square foot multi-modal station near downtown Ripon. On and off-site improvements for the 3.25 acre project area include: 150 off-street parking spaces, a bus loading and staging area, and a future rail platform for the ACE Train. The Ripon bikeway network will also be incorporated into the project. This multi-modal station would provide a number of benefits, not only to the residents of Ripon, but the region.

Downtown Economic Vitality

Ripon's downtown consists of six blocks of commercial buildings, including a number of historic buildings that date back to the early 1900's. It is located near convenient access to Highway 99 and close proximity to other major freeways. Like many downtowns throughout America, Ripon's downtown has gone through a transformation over the past several decades. Before, downtowns were the hub of the community where the communities' business was conducted. With the advent of regional shopping centers and discount superstores, the traditional downtown's economic foundation has drastically changed. Now, downtowns have evolved to a more quaint businesses environment with businesses that provide a specialized service. Attracting customers downtown has become a constant challenge for downtown businesses.

By locating Ripon's multi-modal station near its downtown, it will provide an economic benefit to downtown businesses. It is expected that this station would experience 100,000 "on & offs" in 2025 and that is projected to double by 2030. This volume of potential customers would provide an increase in commercial activity, which would stabilize the downtown businesses and provide a tax base that will generate additional business revenue.

In addition to the economic benefit to the local businesses, there is also an economic benefit to the City of Ripon due to the increased tax revenues generated, higher property values, and higher paying jobs.

Regional ACE Station

The extension of the ACE train service to Ripon provides a connection for south San Joaquin County and Stanislaus County residents to various Bay Area destinations, including the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, Caltrain, Levi’s Stadium, Great America, Santa Clara University, along with various businesses centers.

Improving Air Quality

The Ripon Multi-Modal Station will serve as a regional hub for access to alternative modes of transportation, including bike, bus, and train. It is anticipated the future ACE train service will provide the largest percentage of riders using the station. With convenient access to an ACE station, commuters in Ripon and Stanislaus County will be able to travel to various destinations by train rather than vehicles. This switching of their transportation mode will reduce vehicles on the roadways during traffic peaks, resulting in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.