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PRESS RELEASE

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**STANCOG SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON WALKING, BICYCLING, DRIVING, AND TAKING
TRANSIT IN BYSTROM AND EMPIRE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Modesto, CA) – The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) is launching two community transportation needs assessments: “Connect Bystrom” and “Connect Empire.” Each project will explore how people get around, and their experiences while traveling. StanCOG will lead a community-driven study supported by robust public engagement that targets the transportation needs of two of Stanislaus County’s unincorporated communities.

StanCOG is seeking input during two virtual community workshops (one for Bystrom and one for Empire). During the workshops, we will ask for direct feedback on transportation issues and opportunities for people who live, work, and spend time in Empire and Bystrom. Live Spanish interpretation will be provided.

The workshops will take place via Zoom. Details are as follows:

- Bystrom: Tuesday November 16th, 2021 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
 - Register at <https://bit.ly/BystromCTNA>
- Empire: Thursday November 18th, 2021 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
 - Register at <https://bit.ly/EmpireCTNA>

These workshops will provide key local input to inform StanCOG’s future outreach during the project. The data collected from the workshops will be used to facilitate conversations regarding roadway conditions and potential strategies and opportunities to enhance mobility within these two communities.

Bystrom community members are invited to share their feedback at www.bit.ly/ConnectBystrom (English) or www.bit.ly/BystromConectado (Spanish). Empire community members can share their feedback at www.bit.ly/ConnectEmpire (English) or www.bit.ly/EmpireConectado (Spanish).

Questions about the project, surveys or workshops can be directed to Isael Ojeda by email at iojeda@stancog.org and by phone at (209) 525-4632.

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About StanCOG

The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as designated by the federal government, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), as designated by the State of California, and the Local Transportation Authority (LTA), which administers the local Measure L sales tax dedicated to transportation improvements in the Stanislaus region. StanCOG is a public organization that works with local governments and citizens in the Stanislaus region to address transportation issues and needs that cross city and county boundaries.

Established in 1971, StanCOG is a council of city and county governments, comprised of the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford, and Stanislaus County, which addresses regional transportation issues. It provides the forum that brings local mayors, city council members and county supervisors together to work on regional transportation improvements in a setting that promotes the involvement of the public in the planning process for the Stanislaus region.