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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Cindy Malekos

Phone: (209) 573-3946

Email: cmalekos@stancog.org

**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 planning projects: “Connect Bystrom” and “Connect Empire.” Each project will explore how people get around, and their experiences while traveling. The project team will then determine how to make it safer, easier, and more convenient for people to walk, bicycle, and take transit in both towns.

StanCOG is seeking community input via two online surveys (one for Bystrom and one for Empire). By completing this five-minute survey, community members can let StanCOG know how they get around, where they want to go, what challenges they face while traveling, and how transportation options and experiences could be improved. StanCOG welcomes input from anyone who lives, works, or spends time in Empire and Bystrom.

The surveys are available online in both English and Spanish. The surveys will be open from Monday, September 20 to Friday, October 8, 2021.

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

StanCOG is inviting Bystrom community members to share their feedback at www.bit.ly/ConnectBystrom (English) or www.bit.ly/BystromConnectado (Spanish). Empire community members can share their feedback at www.bit.ly/ConnectEmpire (English) or www.bit.ly/EmpireConnectado (Spanish). Questions about the project or the surveys can be directed to Isael Ojeda at iojeda@stancog.org or 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 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.