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MCAG INVITES MERCED COUNTY RESIDENTS TO APPLY FOR 2027 COMMUNITY ACADEMY

MERCED - The Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) is now accepting applications for its 2027 Community Academy, a year-long program designed to help Merced County residents better understand transportation planning, public transit and the factors that shape transportation systems in the region.

The MCAG Community Academy provides residents with an opportunity to learn directly from MCAG staff and engage in discussions about transportation issues affecting Merced County. Participants will take part in four half-day sessions featuring interactive conversations, learning opportunities and local field trips. Upon completion of the program, participants will graduate and become MCAG Ambassadors.

“We are excited to welcome another group of Merced County residents into the Community Academy,” said Stacie Guzman, MCAG Executive Director. “The Academy gives participants an opportunity to learn more about the transportation systems and planning processes that affect their daily lives, while also creating a meaningful opportunity for MCAG to hear directly from community members about their priorities and what decisions impact them most.”

The Academy will cover a range of topics including regional transportation planning, public transit systems and how they work, active transportation, air quality, local, state and federal transportation policies, how the public can participate in effective transportation systems, passenger rail in California, and the relationship between housing, land use and transportation.

There is no cost to apply to, or participate in, the Community Academy. To be eligible, applicants must be at least 18 years old, live in Merced County and commit to attending all four half-day sessions. Each session will be held from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m**.** Lunch and interpretation assistance will be available to participants.

The 2027 Community Academy sessions are scheduled for:

- Friday, February 5, 2027
- Friday, May 7, 2027
- Friday, August 13, 2027
- Friday, November 5, 2027

An informal graduation ceremony will be held at the MCAG Governing Board meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2027.

Applications are being accepted through December 31, 2026, and are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, and Portuguese. Individuals must submit the Community Academy application along with a short bio or resume to info@mcagov.org to be considered for the program.

To learn more about the MCAG Community Academy and apply for the 2027 program, visit www.mcagov.org/420/MCAG-Community-Academy.

MCAG is the regional transportation planning agency and metropolitan planning organization for Merced County. In addition to regional transportation planning, MCAG also manages The Bus, YARTS, the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority and administers Measure V funds. For more information, visit www.mcagov.org.

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