



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is a Complete Streets Plan?

A Complete Streets Plan studies and evaluates a range of potential transportation improvements on a defined street. The phrase “complete streets” refers to the idea that streets should be accessible and convenient to use for all users, whether they drive, bike, walk, take transit or use a mobility device like a wheelchair.

### 2. What will the Pacheco and Pioneer Complete Streets Plans be used for?

Once the plans are complete (a separate plan for SR-152/Pacheco Boulevard and one for Pioneer Road), they will provide guidance for future proposed changes or improvements that are consistent with the plans’ goals and vision. The plans will also aid in applying for funding to implement the plans’ recommended improvements.

### 3. Why is the City doing Complete Streets Plans for Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road?

The population of Los Banos is growing and there is an increase in regional trips through the city, so traffic is building up on SR-152 / Pacheco Boulevard. At the same time, there is a need to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists safely. There is also an opportunity to consider aesthetic improvements on Pacheco Boulevard to make it more welcoming.

For Pioneer Road, there is growing congestion there as well, and it has been shown as a four-lane arterial in the City’s Transportation Element for many years. Recently, the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) Measure V Westside Projects Committee has recommended funding for the City’s Pioneer Road Widening project that could serve as a local alternative route parallel to SR 152 / Pacheco Boulevard.

The Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road Complete Streets Plans are both an interim measure to potentially relieve traffic congestion on Pacheco Boulevard by studying Pioneer Road as an alternate route, as well as a general improvement plan for both Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road to make these streets safer and more attractive for all modes of travel in the future.

### 4. What is happening with the planned SR-152 Bypass project?

Currently, the SR-152 Bypass project, which runs to the north of the City of Los Banos, is on hold due to permitting and funding issues. It is not anticipated to be developed until 2040 or later. If implemented, the Pioneer Road widening will help provide congestion relief from SR-152 in the interim, while simultaneously providing long-term improvements to both Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road for all modes of traffic, which will continue to be beneficial even if/when the Bypass is completed and operational. In short, this project is meant to supplement a future SR-152 Bypass, rather than replace the Bypass project.

### 5. What is the schedule for the Plan?

The Plan will take approximately a year and a half to complete. The Project Team is currently in the process of developing a preliminary set of proposed concept alternatives for the Study Area that will be further refined through community workshops and stakeholder engagement before one of the alternatives is chosen as the ‘preferred alternative.’ This alternative will then be further refined through another round of public engagement before being presented as the final plan to the City Council. A schedule for the project is available on the home page of this website.

**6. What do the yellow dotted lines on the Study Area Map indicate?**

These lines show the project area that is being studied in the Plan. They do not indicate the location or size of any potential improvements (including road widenings). The dashed lines are wide enough to include properties on either side of the roadways only to indicate that owners of these properties will be involved in the Plan process. As of December 2019, it is too early in the Plan to have any recommendations on the location and extent of any specific improvements in the Study Area, which would result from extensive technical analysis and community input.

**7. How will property owners along Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road be involved in the project?**

Part of the development of the Plan includes specific targeted meetings and events for stakeholders in the Study Area, in addition to events and opportunities for the larger community. Project stakeholders include property and business owners in the Study Area as well as agency officials such as Merced County, Caltrans, irrigation districts, and school district officials. The first meeting with project stakeholders occurred in November. The second round of stakeholder meetings will occur in Spring 2020. This second round of meetings will solicit feedback from project stakeholders on the refined set of concept alternatives once the community at large has had a chance to voice input on the first set of draft alternatives.

**8. How will the community at large be involved in the project?**

The Project Team will hold four community workshops throughout the duration of the project. The first occurred in November and was a visioning workshop in which participants were asked to share challenges and opportunities on Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road. The second community workshop will occur on February 4, 2020. Project staff will present a set of preliminary design concepts for Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road, and participants will be asked to provide feedback on the concept alternatives for further refinement.

After project staff further refines the set of concept alternatives, a third community workshop in April 2020 will give participants a chance to provide feedback on the refined set of concept alternatives before a preferred alternative is chosen for the draft plan. During the final community workshop in the summer of 2020, project staff will present the draft plan and solicit feedback. After this final workshop, the Plan will be further refined based on community feedback and presented to City Council in November of 2020.

In addition to the four community workshops, project staff will hold several 'pop-up' workshops at community events like festivals and markets throughout the project duration and will provide the opportunity to give feedback online through the project website.

A schedule for the project is available on the home page of this website.

**9. What is the proposed start/completion date for the improvement projects?**

Many more steps are required prior to the implementation of the proposed improvements, including assembling specifications, funding and permits. For Pioneer Road, the Measure V funding anticipates construction may begin 2025.

**10. Where can I find documents and more information relating to the Plan?**

Lots of information can be found on this website, including project documents, project schedule, and upcoming events.

Follow us on Facebook to receive notices about upcoming workshops and other opportunities: [facebook.com/losbanoscompletestreets](https://facebook.com/losbanoscompletestreets)