

2 OVERVIEW OF THE SYSTEM

HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

The City of Modesto and Stanislaus County have each been operating their own public transit systems for many years. In late 2019, the Stanislaus Council of Governments completed a Transit Efficiency and Innovations Study, which recommended a merger of the services operated by City of Modesto, City of Turlock, and Stanislaus County to improve service and gain greater cost efficiencies. Only the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County agreed to move forward with a merger.

On January 26, 2021, the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County formed a Joint Powers Agency to create a new transit authority called the Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority (StanRTA) with the goal of providing better transit service within the region. Effective July 1, 2021, the city's system (MAX) and the county's system (StaRT) transitioned into StanRTA. Known initially as StanRTA, the system is now branded as "Ride the S" or "The S"

StaRT was the regional provider, operating eight fixed routes, four Dial-A-Ride services, and three shuttle services that provided service throughout the county. They also operated non-emergency medical transportation to Bay Area facilities (branded as Medivan), and traditional ADA paratransit.

MAX was the predominant transit provider for the cities of Modesto and Ceres. They operated 22 fixed routes that served Modesto and Ceres, as well as provided connections to regional transit operators such as BART and ACE. MAX also operated traditional ADA paratransit. Prior to the merger that created StanRTA, MAX acquired Ceres Area Transit's (CAT) operations on July 1, 2020. This acquisition resulted in the addition of the single CAT fixed route and accompanying ADA paratransit service area into the system.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Ride the S operates a variety of services including fixed route, flexible services, and ADA paratransit. More information about each of these services is included below.

Fixed Route

Ride the S operates 30 fixed routes that can be classified into three categories:

- **Local:** Routes that connect riders to destinations within Modesto, Ceres, and Salida
- **Intercity Connector:** Routes that provide service between cities and towns in the county
- **Commuter:** Routes with limited service that primarily connect workers to regional multimodal transit connections such as BART and ACE

Flexible Service

Ride the S offers four types of flexible transit service.

- **Dial-A Ride:** A point-to-point service open to all that is provided within a city or community. Riders call in advance to schedule a trip. Curb-to-curb service means a driver can help riders on and off the vehicle.
- **Shuttle:** A service intended to provide transportation between cities or communities. Open to all, shuttle service offers curb-to-curb assistance if requested but is less flexible than Dial-A-Ride in that it has scheduled times throughout the day when the vehicle has to be in a specific location. Riders must call in advance to schedule a trip.
- **Medivan:** Provides non-emergency medical transportation to the general public. Riders must call ahead.
- **Deviated Fixed Route:** Open to all, riders can call ahead to request a driver deviate up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from a fixed route for a pickup, and can let a driver know while on board if they'd like to be dropped off within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the route.

ADA Paratransit

For people in the who cannot ride fixed-route transit, complementary ADA paratransit allows people to call to schedule a trip that cannot be denied as long as the trip meets at least one of the following parameters:

- Trip starts and ends within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of a fixed route when the fixed-route service is running.
- Schedule a trip on a Dial-A-Ride or Shuttle to be transported anywhere within the service area the DAR or Shuttle runs during standard operating hours.