



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of May 17, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 4-G

PREPARED BY: Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Letters of Support for State Route 99 Projects in Tulare County

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) has written two letters of support for State Route 99 (SR 99) projects in Tulare County. The two projects are finalizing their environmental phase and preparing for construction. The two projects are:

- State Route 99 Tulare City Safety and Goods Movement and Paige Ave Interchange and Multi-modal Improvements Project
- State Route 99 Safety and Goods Movement, Delano to Pixley Project

These projects are crucial to accomplishing valley-wide goals of addressing needs on SR 99. It is a critical corridor for moving goods up and down the state and across the nation. It is a connector of people and jobs, of students and education, of people and opportunity.

In 2005, Caltrans published the SR 99 Business Plan, which outlined a strategic approach to transforming SR 99 into a safe and efficient trade corridor. The plan solidified Caltrans' long-term goals for the route and a corresponding list of projects to achieve those goals, thereby streamlining funding decisions for corridor improvements. A key priority for this work was completing widening projects necessary for SR 99 to be a six-lane corridor.

Today, the goal established in the Business Plan of widening SR 99 from 4 to 6 lanes from Kern County to San Joaquin County, remains unfinished. As a result, the corridor is needlessly congested and unsafe, hampering economic activity, negatively impacting the quality of life in the San Joaquin Valley, and adversely impacting air quality and the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget