

December 30, 2025

Dina El-Tawansy, Director  
Department of Transportation, Director  
P.O. Box 942873  
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Dear Director El-Tawansy,

On behalf of the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft 2026 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).

We understand and appreciate the challenges associated with the current project funding shortfall and recognize the difficult decisions that must be made to balance statewide needs. We value our partnership with Caltrans and acknowledge the efforts underway to responsibly manage limited resources while maintaining and improving the state highway system.

That said, we strongly emphasize the need to maintain funding this fiscal year and avoid further delays to the State Route 99 (SR 99) South Madera 6 Lane project. This segment of SR 99 remains a critical corridor for our region, and recent events have underscored the urgency of advancing this project. A recent tragic double fatality in this section of the freeway underscores the very real and immediate safety risks faced by the traveling public.

Current SHOPP funding in the amount of \$54.7 million, allocated in FY 25-26 for the SR 99 South Madera 6 Lane project, should remain in this fiscal year and not be delayed to FY 2026/27. Additionally, current and proposed Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funds should be advanced to FY 25/26.

Maintaining funding for high-risk corridors, such as SR 99, should remain a top priority. The loss of life reinforces the importance of advancing this project without further delay. Protecting motorists' safety and saving lives must take precedence, and timely investment in this corridor is essential to achieving those outcomes.

For these reasons, we request that Caltrans continue to prioritize funding for the SR 99 South Madera 6 Lane project and take all possible steps to advance it immediately. Our region stands ready to support Caltrans in advancing this critical safety project.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact Patricia Taylor, Executive Director of the Madera County Transportation Commission, at [patricia@maderactc.org](mailto:patricia@maderactc.org) should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

*Jose Rodriguez*

Jose Rodriguez (Dec 31, 2025 21:20:43 PST)

Jose Rodriguez, Chair  
Madera County Transportation Commission

cc: The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil, Senator, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Esmeralda Z. Soria, Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable David J. Tangipa, Assemblymember, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans District 6 Director  
Tanisha Taylor, California Transportation Commission, Executive Director