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September 28, 2022

Mitch Weiss
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support MAD99/233 Chowchilla Multimodal Interchange Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), I am writing to express support for the City of Chowchilla's MAD 99/233 Chowchilla Multimodal Interchange Improvement project located at the State Route (SR) 99/SR 233 Separation in Chowchilla for consideration for the Local Partnership Program (LPP) Competitive Grant Program.

MCTC fully supports the City of Chowchilla LPP grant application for the MAD 99/233 Chowchilla Multimodal Interchange Improvement Project. Funding for this project will assist in providing multimodal accessibility and connectivity by providing safe bicycle and pedestrian access through the SR 99/SR 233 interchange. This project will also improve operations at the interchange, improving access to local businesses and services. The Madera County Transportation Authority programmed \$12.5 million in local measure funds for this project, including \$7.15 million for the construction phase.

SR 99 serves as the backbone of the Central Valley's agriculture economy. This project will facilitate more efficient goods movement through the SR 99/233 interchange, improving the overall connectivity. SR 99 connects interregional trips with origins and destinations beyond the region such as the ports, as well as facilitating the movement of agricultural goods, such as almonds, nuts, milk, grapes, and cattle. The gross value crop production for Madera County is approximately 2 billion dollars. SR 99 is also an essential link to other state routes in the Central Valley on the freight network. Furthermore, funding this project will stimulate job creation in an area faced with higher-than-average unemployment.

This project will provide a 10-foot multi use sidewalk, 8-foot shoulders, and connectivity to the adjacent local streets for cyclists and pedestrians. The construction of the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure along SR 233 will allow for more non-motorized travel options across the SR 99 corridor. These improvements will also serve the 22 affordable housing units planned southeast of the SR 99/233 interchange.

Madera County Connection currently operates the Chowchilla - Fairmead route, which serves the east and west sides of SR 99. This project will improve accessibility for transit services in the community of Chowchilla.

This is a transformative regional project able to meet the goals outlined in the 2022 Madera County Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The

Member Agencies: County of Madera, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla

RTP/SCS speaks on the importance of partnering with vital state funding programs such as the LPP to advance and implement regionally significant projects. When completed this project will support the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and increase the region's economic vitality whilst improving mobility for all travelers through a variety of accessible modal options.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project application for Local Partnership Program funding. We appreciate the opportunity to support the City of Chowchilla in their efforts to complete this project.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler, Chair
Madera County Transportation Commission