

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

August 3, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Weiss:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), are pleased to submit the Madera South Widening (Project) for consideration in the Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Trade Corridors Enhancement Program (TCEP) 2020. Caltrans and MCTC are requesting \$5,500,000 in SB1 TCEP 2020 funding for right-of-way capital and support, with \$2,200,000 being requested from the State share and \$3,300,000 from the regional share.

The project is on State Route 99 (SR 99) in Madera County from south of the Ave 7 to north of the Ave 12. SR 99 connects District 6 from north of Madera County to south of Kern County with the rest of the State and is the primary inter-regional corridor within the San Joaquin Valley. It provides a critical linkage for shipment via freight trucks of agricultural goods produced in the District to markets outside of the Valley; provides for through traffic between major ports and metropolitan areas of California; and during the summer months provides significant recreational access. Enhancement of this section of SR 99, which runs through southern Madera County, is needed to improve truck freight mobility and travel time reliability, preserve acceptable facility operation, improve safety, and reduce congestion. The segment is already beginning to break down and operate at unacceptable levels. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for trucks is up to 21% within this corridor as compared with the State average of 9% for truck AADT. The proposed 6-lane freeway would improve the flow and travel-time reliability along this segment of SR 99 for current volumes of traffic and provide enough capacity to manage the projected increases to both freight and passenger vehicle volumes.

Madera Widening Project (from Ave 12 to Ave 17), north of this project and

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currently in construction, is a prime example of the successful partnership between MCTC and Caltrans. MCTC used their Measure and Regional Improvement Program funds for environmental, design and right-of-way phases in order to have the project shovel ready for construction. MCTC and Caltrans plan to have a similar partnership for the Madera North Widening project that will widen SR 99 all the way to State Route 152.

We greatly appreciate the California Transportation Commission's consideration of the requested investment in this project, as it is a critical component of the transportation infrastructure for the Central Valley. We believe the Project is a strong candidate for SB1 TCEP 2020 funding.

The signatures below confirm support from Caltrans and MCTC including that all the information within the application and the Project Programming Request form is accurate.

Sincerely,

Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission

Date

Diana Gomez
District 6 Director
California Department of Transportation

Date

TOKS OMISHAKIN
Director
California Department of Transportation

Date