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March 8, 2022

Lee Ann Eager, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Chair Eager,

The Madera County Transportation Commission Policy Board is grateful for the inclusion of funding for State Route 99 (SR 99), including the South Madera 6 Lane Widening Project (Madera County from south of Avenue 7 to north of Avenue 12) in the 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), and ask for your approval. This project will eliminate the 5.8 mile, four-lane bottleneck on SR 99 in the southbound and northbound directions, between the cities of Fresno and Madera by providing an additional lane in each direction in the median.

Over 25 percent of the nation's produce is grown in the San Joaquin Valley, making SR 99 the backbone of the region's agriculture economy. Identified in the California Freight Plan, this project will strengthen a high volume, major goods movement section of SR 99 between the Cities of Madera and Fresno and reduce travel time for perishable commodities to go from farm to market throughout the United States and around the world. Renewed investment in this critical route will improve goods movement and passenger travel along SR 99. The project will include the installation of new zero-emission vehicle infrastructure to help Madera meet shared local and state goals of accommodating a growing zero-emissions fleet. It will also upgrade drainage, and construct drainage basins and a median barrier. Furthermore, funding this project will stimulate job creation in an area faced with consistent high unemployment.

The Madera SR 99 South project is vital to Madera County residents and the region. This important infrastructure project has been selected by the community to be part of the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy and is part of a long-range community vision intended to help Madera County reduce harmful emissions, improve traveler safety, and support a robust and vibrant economy.

We are pleased to report that we have just wrapped up the SR 99 Summit (March 3 and 4), as required by the Final 2022 ITIP and are committed to assist Caltrans to complete a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan for the SR 99.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Commission adopt the Final 2022 ITIP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being particularly prominent.

Tom Wheeler
Chair

Madera County Transportation Commission

cc: Members of the California Transportation Commission
Mitchell Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Steven Keck, Acting Director, Department of Transportation
Diana Gomez, Director, Caltrans District 6
Michael Navarro, Deputy District Director, Caltrans District 6
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Assembly Member, 5th District
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator, 12th District