



March 8, 2022

The Honorable Lee Ann Eager  
Chair  
California Transportation Commission  
1020 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for Final 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program; Support for 2022 ITIP Investments into State Route 99**

Dear Chair Eager,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), and the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) write to express our enthusiastic support for the Final 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (Final 2022 ITIP) released by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on December 15, 2021. The Final 2022 ITIP proposes to fund cost increases for the current program of projects, to program limited subsequent project phases for currently programmed projects, and to add a few new active transportation, intercity rail, and highway projects and we respectfully request the Commission to adopt the Final 2022 ITIP.

We are grateful for the inclusion of funding for State Route 99 (SR 99) as it serves as a critical north-south corridor for goods movement throughout California, supports the largest agricultural region in the United States, and is a vital corridor for daily life for the 4.4 million residents of the San Joaquin Valley. We recognize the Final 2022 ITIP only has \$178.2 million in new capacity to bring to bear for cost increases, new phases, and new projects to deliver a safe, efficient, and multimodal interregional transportation system. The Final 2022 ITIP includes funding for these key SR 99 projects:

- The **South Madera 6 Lane Widening Project** (Madera County from south of Avenue 7 to north of Avenue 12). This project will eliminate the 5.8 mile, four-lane bottleneck on SR 99 in the southbound and northbound directions, between Fresno and Madera by providing an additional lane in each direction in the median.
- The **Tulare City Widening Project**. This project will eliminate the 5 mile, four-lane bottleneck on SR 99 in the City of Tulare, between Avenue 200 and Prosperity Avenue by providing an additional lane in each direction in the median.
- The **Livingston Widening Southbound Project** (Merced County). This project is 8 miles from south of Hammatt Ave to the Merced/Stanislaus County line. The widening is from 2 to 3 lanes in the median. SR 99 north and south of the project area is an existing six-lane freeway. The Livingston Widening *Northbound* Project is currently under construction.
- The **South Tulare 99 Project** (northwards from Delano). Funded specifically with SR 99 bond funds (expected CTC action January 2022), this innovative project will make permanent 13.5 miles of temporary lanes in southern Tulare.

MCTC, MCAG, and TCAG – and the communities we represent – are steadfast in our commitment to finishing SR 99 to six-lanes throughout. Finishing SR 99 will help reduce significant safety issues along the

highly traveled corridor and create economic vitality through the efficient movement of goods and services. Moreover, these goals can be achieved while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as demonstrated by our SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy, which the California Air Resources Board has approved.

We also support the state's overarching goals for California's transportation system – multimodal, safe, efficient, accessible, equitable, and sustainable. Along with our other San Joaquin Valley regional transportation agency partners, we have and will continue to prioritize investments in rail, intercity rail, transit, and active transportation infrastructure and mobility options. We are also actively supporting the state's zero-emission vehicle goals, endeavor to support affordable housing development, and strive to stand-up disadvantaged communities and make investments to create opportunities for *all* our residents.

We are pleased to report that we have just wrapped up a focused summit on SR 99 as required by the Final 2022 ITIP and are anxious to assist Caltrans to complete a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan for SR 99. We recognize these are conditions of funding for the South Madera 6 Lane Widening Project and we are fully committed to these important and complementary efforts.

Again, we support the Final 2022 ITIP, including funding for SR 99, and respectfully request the Commission's adoption at its March 15-16 CTC meeting.

Sincerely,



Stacie Guzman  
Executive Director  
Merced County Association of Governments



Ted Smalley  
Executive Director  
Tulare County Association of Governments



Patricia Taylor  
Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission

cc: Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency  
Mitch Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission  
Steven Keck, Acting Director, California Department of Transportation  
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Mark Tollefson, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom