



September 30, 2024

Mr. Tony Tavares
Director
California Department of Transportation
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Acceleration of the Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan for State Route 99

Dear Director Tavares,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), and the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) write to request your assistance in accelerating the development and finalization of the Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) for State Route 99 (SR 99). There are several state and federal funding opportunities forthcoming and it's critical that the state confirms its commitment to finish SR 99 to six lanes throughout so that our agencies can remain competitive in seeking funding.

The SR 99 CMCP will increase our collective access to grant funding opportunities and ultimately our competitiveness by detailing a vision for the corridor from Sacramento to Bakersfield that leverages agency coordination, robust analysis including transportation trends and emerging technologies, and community needs. The focus of the SR 99 CMCP is on closing the gaps on SR 99 and creating a truck only lane throughout the corridor to address safety, goods movement, and congestion challenges – solutions and goals we support.

The 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) conditioned funding for the South Madera 6 Lanes Widening Project on completion of the SR 99 CMCP. With this project nearing ready to access funds for construction, time is of the essence. Moreover, the CMCP represents an opportunity for the state to reaffirm its commitment to improvements along the corridor to address growing safety, access, and congestion issues. The state and the San Joaquin Valley have had a shared vision for SR 99 since the early 2000's. However, changes in state policy have called into question the state's commitment to this critical facility. The CMCP offers a meaningful opportunity to support the San Joaquin Valley, its vibrant (and of international significance) agricultural economy, and the

millions of Californians that use the facility to access jobs, school, health care, recreational opportunities, tourism, and more.

The current CMCP schedule indicates delivery of a final CMCP by June 2025. While we are optimistic that this milestone can be achieved, there have been delays in the development of the project from the beginning. As such, we write today to implore you to keep the CMCP on track, if not accelerate early delivery of the plan with a Draft out for public review by April. We invite Caltrans to present the Draft CMCP at the San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference in Merced on April 10-11, 2025.

Future corridor decisions require a final CMCP; we must be ready and able to take advantage of vital funding opportunities to improve the lives and livelihoods of those that utilize SR 99. Should you have any questions regarding this request or other SR 99 related matters, please contact Kiana Valentine who represents our agencies on SR 99 corridor matters (kiana@politicogroup.com or (916) 266-3892).

Sincerely,



Stacie Guzman
Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments



Ted Smalley
Executive Director
Tulare County Association of



Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission