



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of November 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 5-D

PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Draft 2026 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) Update

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released the Draft Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) on October 27, 2025, that includes proposed funding for projects in the Madera Region. The California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) five-year ITIP is prepared pursuant to Government Code 14526, Streets and Highways Code Section 164, and the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) 2026 STIP Guidelines. The 2026 ITIP covers Fiscal Years (FY) 2026/27 – 2030/31.

California Government Code Section 14526 specifies that the ITIP fund projects that improve interregional movement for people and goods throughout California on the State Highway System (SHS) and develop Intercity Passenger Rail corridors of strategic importance.

North Madera 6 Lane

The North Madera 99 Six-lane project will enhance freight mobility and relieve traffic congestion by increasing traffic capacity on State Route (SR) 99 from Avenue 17 Overcrossing to Avenue 21½ Overcrossing. Alternative 1 proposes to construct one additional lane in each direction using the existing median.

This segment of SR 99 is essential to the economy of San Joaquin Valley and is critical to the agricultural and commercial transportation in this region. Almonds are the top commodity in both Fresno and Madera counties producing 533,000 tons, valued at \$2 billion. Milk is the second highest leading commodity in Madera County, valued at approximately \$330 million dollars. SR 99 is also used by interregional travelers and commuters in Madera and Fresno Counties. The 2021 AADT ranges from 70,000 to 73,000. The 2021 average daily truck traffic

within the project limits is approximately 20%. SR 99 is part of the National Highway System as a STRAHNET and a STAA truck route serving San Joaquin Valley.

The continuous six-lane cross section that this project will extend will enable the implementation of managed-lane strategies with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reducing benefits on the SR 99 corridor. Caltrans District 6, in collaboration with the Headquarters (HQ) Sustainability Division, has developed a potential phased approach for opportunity to implement a managed-lane facility on SR 99. This project would be part of Phase 2 of the approach to implement the managed-lane strategies, estimated to be implemented in 2030. There is an additional 6.8-mile segment on SR 99 from SR 152 that runs through the City of Chowchilla to the Madera/Merced County line that will also need to be completed as a part of the 325.8 miles of managed lanes. Managed-lane strategies with VMT reducing benefits will be identified in an interim deliverable in the development of the SR 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan.

Caltrans is requesting a total of \$17,900,000 in 2026 ITIP funding for Environmental, Design and Right-of-Way phases.

South Madera 6 Lane

The South Madera 6 Lane Widening Project is on SR 99 in Madera County from south of Avenue 7 to north of Avenue 12. It is consistent with the CFMP, SR 99 Business Plan, SR 99 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) and the Madera County Transportation Commission RTP.

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 scope of work includes increasing vertical clearance at one of the overcrossing structures.

SR 99 in this vicinity is at the upper end of the spectrum for projects with a very high interregional value – with 21 percent truck traffic volume and a relatively high Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT). This project improves operational efficiency on a critical goods movement corridor, providing greater travel-time reliability, throughput, and velocity of freight movement.

This project accomplishes the goals of the 2021 ITSP by balancing local community and interregional needs and improving safety for all users. The project benefits the surrounding disadvantaged communities by increasing connectivity to employment and production centers, education, services, and other opportunities in the region. The project also meets the needs of the SR 99 Business Corridor Plan.

Madera County's Mid-Cycle RIP funds and SHOPP funds are also programmed for this project.

A total of \$5,293,000 in 2026 ITIP funding is being requested for additional Engineering and Construction phases.

Madera High-Speed Rail Station Project (for informational purposes only)

The project will construct a new station in Madera County for California's Interim High-Speed Rail (HSR) Service between Merced and Bakersfield. Located along Avenue 12, the station will provide Madera County with direct access to HSR service and better connect it with Fresno, the larger Central Valley region, and the rest of California. Future transit-oriented development along the Avenue 12 Corridor, together with improved transit connectivity, will ensure that Madera County can capture the full economic and environmental benefits of HSR and sustainable growth patterns.

SJJPA completed environmental review for the improvements needed for the Madera HSR Station for Interim Service in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on January 22, 2021. SJJPA manages the San Joaquins rail service and is expected to be the Operating Agency for HSR Interim Service. SJJPA is responsible for implementing the improvements needed for the Madera HSR Station. SJJPA is working in partnership with the Madera County Transportation Commission, Madera County, City of Madera, Caltrans, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA).

2026 ITIP Schedule

Action	Date
CTC adopts Fund Estimate and Guidelines	August 14-15, 2025
Caltrans submits draft ITIP	October 15, 2025
CTC ITIP Hearing, South	October 30, 2025
CTC ITIP Hearing, North	November 7, 2025
MCTC adopts 2026 RTIP	November 19, 2025
Regions submit RTIP to CTC	December 15, 2025
Caltrans submits ITIP to CTC	December 15, 2025
CTC STIP Hearing – North and South	January/February 2026
CTC publishes staff recommendations	End of February 2026
CTC Adopts 2026 STIP	March 2026

Letters of Support

Enclosed are letters of support from the MCTC Policy Board, the SR 99 Coalition, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, all affirming their support for the 2026 ITIP.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget.