

Chair
Supervisor Daron McDaniel
Merced County



Vice Chair
Supervisor Vito Chiesa
Stanislaus County

November 12, 2025

Dina El-Tawansy, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director El-Tawansy,

On behalf of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, I am writing to express our strong support for the Draft 2026 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP). Given the limited resources available, we believe the Draft 2026 ITIP will make significant progress toward achieving the statutory goals of improving the state highway system, enhancing the intercity passenger rail system, and enhancing the interregional movement of people, vehicles, and goods.

As you are aware, the San Joaquin Valley is a major freight and agricultural corridor, and our transportation system faces unique challenges, including heavy goods movement, state route bottlenecks, increasing congestion, air pollution challenges specific to our geography, and transportation justice inequities. The Draft 2026 ITIP, with its proposed investments on Highway 99 for the North and South Madera Six Lane Projects, the State Route 99 Managed Lane Project from Madera to Kern, and the Tulare State Route 99 Corridor and Paige Avenue Multimodal Interchange Enhancements Project; along with its proposed rail investments in the Madera High Speed Rail Station and the San Joaquin Corridor Second Platform (Modesto and Turlock-Denair) Project in Stanislaus County; is a significant step to helping us address our challenges.

We strongly support the Draft 2026 ITIP, and we urge Caltrans to include the aforementioned projects in the Final 2026 ITIP that is submitted to the California Transportation Commission.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council
Merced County Board of Supervisors

cc: Tanisha Taylor, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission



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