



November 7, 2025

The Honorable Darnel Grisby
Chair, California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SR 99 Programming – Draft 2026 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Chair Grigsby:

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), and Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), which jointly and collaboratively advocate for funding to finish State Route 99 (SR 99), are pleased to express our strong support for the Draft 2026 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (Draft 2026 ITIP). Specifically, the Draft 2026 ITIP proposes investments in SR 99 that will help deliver a safe, efficient, and multimodal corridor benefiting our residents, the San Joaquin Valley, and the entire State of California, including:

SR 99 Managed Lanes (Kern to Madera)

The Draft 2026 ITIP proposes \$7.7 million to begin implementing a Managed Lanes Strategy consistent with the SR 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP). Once gaps are closed, this effort will create 164 miles of continuous six lanes, reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and enhance freight mobility for time-sensitive goods produced throughout the region.

Tulare SR 99 Corridor & Paige Avenue Multimodal Interchange

The Draft 2026 ITIP includes \$3.9 million for environmental and design work to advance this critical carryover project. The interchange will improve travel-time reliability, enhance connectivity, and deliver new bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA infrastructure where none currently exists – key components needed to support the Managed Lanes Strategy and SR 99 CMCP.

South Madera 6 Lane

We support the proposed \$5.3 million investment for environmental and construction activities for the South Madera 6 Lane carryover project. The improvements will benefit surrounding disadvantaged communities by strengthening access to jobs, education, services, and major production centers, while also supporting corridor-wide mobility.

North Madera 6 Lane

The Draft 2026 ITIP proposes \$17.9 million to advance environmental, design, and right-of-way activities for the North Madera 6 Lane carryover project. These improvements will relieve congestion, improve

freight movement, and bolster the agricultural economy, while enabling future implementation of the Managed Lanes Strategy.

SR 99 serves as the backbone of the San Joaquin Valley and a vital north–south goods movement corridor for California. For this reason, we strongly support the California Department of Transportation’s proposal to invest \$34.8 million in SR 99 projects through the Draft 2026 ITIP. We respectfully urge the California Transportation Commission to retain and approve these investments in the final 2026 ITIP.

Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions about our position on the Draft 2026 ITIP or the Finish the 99 Coalition, please contact Kiana Valentine, SR 99 Coalition’s legislative advocate at (916) 266-3892 or kiana@politicogroup.com.

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