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August 26, 2021

Toks Omishakin, Caltrans Director  
1120 N Street  
P.O. Box 942873  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan**

Dear Mr. Omishakin,

The Madera County Transportation Commission respectfully requests the inclusion of State Route 41 (SR 41) from the San Joaquin River to the entrance to Yosemite National Park in the 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) as a priority evacuation route for Eastern Madera County. SR 41 plays a vital role in climate resilience by providing an efficient evacuation route in response to devastating wildfires and other natural disasters. SR 41 is identified as an evacuation route in the Madera County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

MCTC has requested the inclusion of State Route (SR) 41 through Madera County in the ITSP in previous years. This route is between Fresno and Yosemite National Park that serves as the main connector from Southern California and is the most heavily used entrance. This is a nationally designated site and routes accessing these locations should be considered part of the primary interregional road system. The highest annual number of vehicles entering Yosemite National Park through the southern entrance via SR 41, which is the most popular entrance, was over 575,000 vehicles.

State Route 41 also serves as the primary access to the entire eastern Madera County region, which is planned for new population growth. Additionally, the destructive 2020 Creek Fire demonstrated the need for safety improvements as SR 41 is the primary evacuation route for the foothill and mountainous areas of Eastern Madera County. This area includes the communities of Oakhurst, Coarsegold, Yosemite Lakes Park, Bass Lake and North Fork. This is a major population center in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains and is a vital part of Madera's economy providing services to national and international tourists as well as retail and employment to Madera County residents. Traffic served on SR 41 ranges from average annual daily traffic (AADT) of 47,500 vehicles per day from the Madera/Fresno County Line to 21,500 to the juncture with SR 49 in Oakhurst.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and how the inclusion of SR 41 in the ITSP would not only benefit the Madera Region, but the entire state. If you have any questions, please contact me at (559) 675-0721 or [patricia@maderactc.org](mailto:patricia@maderactc.org).

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission

Cc: Jim Costa, U.S. House of Representatives District 16  
Anna M. Caballero, State Senate District 12  
Frank Bigelow, State Assembly District 6  
Jay Varney, Madera County Chief Executive Officer  
Arnoldo Rodriguez, Madera City Manager  
Rod Pruitt, Chowchilla City Manager  
Mitch Weiss, CTC Executive Director  
Scott Sauer, Caltrans Office Chief  
Diana Gomez, Caltrans District 6 Director