



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of September 22, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 4-F

PREPARED BY: Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

MCTC Comment Letter on the Caltrans Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP)

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) is a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) planning document that provides guidance for the identification and prioritization of interregional transportation projects identified on the State's Interregional Transportation System. Caltrans prepared the first ITSP in 1998 in response to Senate Bill (SB) 45 passed in 1997, which altered the priorities and processes for programming and expenditure of State transportation funds. Those funding priorities have not changed; however, significant new statewide policies and goals have emerged since then. The ITSP is still required to fund improvements to the interregional transportation system and, specifically, to the 93 Interregional Road System (IRRS) routes and State-run intercity rail corridors. The ITSP remains the planning document that will be used in the identification and selection of projects for Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funding. Additional information about the ITSP Plan may be found on the [2021 ITSP Website](#) and the [ITSP Website](#).

The Madera County Transportation (MCTC) has requested the inclusion of State Route (SR) 41 through Madera County in the ITSP (see enclosed letter), as directed by the Policy Board on February 17, 2021. The 2020 Creek Fire demonstrates the need for safety improvements as the primary evacuation route for the foothill and mountainous areas of Eastern Madera County. SR 41 is also the southern access to Yosemite National Park. SR 41 is the primary arterial providing access to Yosemite National Park and the Eastern Madera County region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2021-22 Overall Work Program and Budget.