



2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

Office: 559-675-0721 Fax: 559-675-9328
Website: www.maderactc.org

February 12, 2021

Toks Omishakin, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant Application for the San Joaquin Valley Household Travel Survey

Mr. Omishakin:

On behalf of Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), I am writing to express our support for the Fresno Council of Governments' Sustainable Communities grant application to develop and administer the San Joaquin Valley Household Travel Survey in partnership with the seven other San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (Valley MPOs).

The San Joaquin Valley Household Travel Survey will collect travel and household data for the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley, including demographic information, travel patterns, and trip-making characteristics. The data will be used in estimation, calibration, and validation of the travel demand models owned by the eight Valley MPOs. These models are a critical tool for planning activities at local, regional, state, and federal levels, such as Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) development, air quality conformity, transportation corridor studies, environmental justice analysis, Senate Bill 743 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), impact fee nexus studies, transit service planning, and more.

The travel models are extensively used in the development of the land use, housing, and transportation strategies included in each MPO's Sustainable Communities Strategy to help the region achieve the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets set by the State. The travel models are also a critical tool in the implementation of Senate Bill 743, which requires that Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) be the performance metric used in the transportation impact analysis in the CEQA process. SB 743 encourages infill and mixed-use development and supports sustainable transportation projects that will reduce VMT and GHG emissions. A properly updated travel model is necessary to measure VMT impact of proposed projects and steer future growth towards desirable locations that lead to more sustainable and healthy communities. The travel models are also used to conduct environmental justice analysis for regional transportation plans to ensure equitable distribution of benefits and burdens of the investments included in the plan. As such, the travel models are an important tool in creating more equitable and sustainable communities.

The Valley MPOs lack recent household travel survey data, and are currently relying on 10-year-old data, as there is no longer a statewide effort to collect such data. If the Valley MPOs are unable to update their models with more current data, they run the risk falling out of compliance with air

Member Agencies: County of Madera, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla

quality conformity, potentially resulting in the loss of approximately \$2 billion in federal transportation funding for the Valley.

The ramification of not having properly updated models due to lack of recent house travel survey data is potentially devastating to the Valley. Transportation and land use planning rely on solid travel demand models to measure our progress towards achieving our climate change, air quality, social equity, and other sustainability goals. A valleywide household travel survey is key to plan for our success in the San Joaquin Valley.

MCTC supports Fresno COG's request for funding on behalf of the eight Valley MPOs for the San Joaquin Valley Household Travel Survey and encourages Caltrans' favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PTJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

Madera County Transportation Commission