



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of November 17, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 5-B

PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Update: (1) SR 99 Madera South Widening Project – Draft 2022 ITIP, and (2) Launch of the SR 99 Finish What We Started

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

Update on SR 99 Madera South Widening Project: Last month, MCTC staff provided the MCTC Policy Board members with the news that the Madera South Widening project was recommended for inclusion in the Draft 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP). The ITIP funding request for the project is \$33.5 million (page 9). The remaining funds are Madera County’s Mid-Cycle Regional Improvement Program funds - \$832,000, and approximately \$44 million in State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funds.

Funding for this project is contingent on Caltrans districts (District 6 and 10) convening a summit in partnership with local and regional agencies and including diverse stakeholders and community-based organizations to establish a vision for the SR 99 corridor that addresses local needs in a manner aligned with state goals as outlined in the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), before the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) adoption, by March 15, 2022. In addition, funding for this project is contingent on Caltrans districts, in partnership with regional agencies, completing a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan for SR 99 to implement that vision before the allocation of ITIP funds. Caltrans is currently working in partnership with the San Joaquin Valley COG Directors to secure a date and location for the Summit.

There were two public hearings scheduled to receive comments on the Draft 2022 ITIP. MCTC staff provided a presentation to the CTC Commissioners during the North Hearing held virtually on November 1, 2021. The presentation was organized in partnership with Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), and Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG). The South Hearing was held on November 8, 2021, and MCTC, TCAG, and MCAG were available if comments were needed. Comments are due to Caltrans by November 15,

2021. The California Transportation Commission will approve the Draft 2022 ITIP at its December meeting in Riverside.

Update on the Launch of the SR 99 Finish What We Started: Included in your package is a memorandum from Kiana Valentine, Partner, Politico Group, providing an update the SR 99 Finish What We Started effort. Politico Group, MCTC, TGAC, and MCAG have been working diligently the past few months to operationalize the SR 99 Finish What We Started Campaign. Activities included building a robust coalition of support for the effort, connecting with local, regional, legislative, and statewide elected officials and stakeholders, and finalizing key messages, developing collateral, and building out a project map, website, and other social media content. These efforts culminated on October 22, 2021, with the transmission of a letter (attached) calling on Governor Newsom and his Administration to commit to fully funding and constructing the remaining segments of SR 99.

The Coalition building effort has also been well-received. We have secured nearly 40 entities represented on the coalition letter to Governor Newsom ranging from local and statewide business organizations to local and regional governments to organized labor. The coalition boasts the agricultural industry, public health, and health care organizations too. This effort will continue to accept entities to join as added representation.

San Joaquin Valley legislators have been briefed on the three-county effort, the larger coalition building process, and that ask of the Administration was imminent. As a result, a letter was sent to Governor Newsom from nine of the San Joaquin Valley's legislative delegation (attached) in tandem with the MCTC/TCAG/MCAG led coalition letter. Securing this bipartisan state elected official support was a great achievement.

Next steps include the following:

1. A meeting with California State Transportation Agency, Caltrans, and California Transportation Commission to discuss our request and hold the state accountable for investing in SR 99.
2. Planning, hosting, and executing the SR 99 Summit.
3. Aiding Caltrans in the development of a comprehensive multimodal corridor study for SR 99.
4. Engaging in the 2021-22 State Budget transportation funding negotiations and the development of the 2022-23 State Budget
5. Leveraging the robust coalition to echo support for SR 99 in a variety of contexts – from CTC meetings to SB 1 funding programs to our State Budget related efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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