



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of November 29, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 5-B

PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Draft 2024 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) Update

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released the Draft Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) on October 28, 2023, that includes proposed funding for projects in the Madera Region. The California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) five-year ITIP is prepared pursuant to Government Code 14526, Streets and Highways Code Section 164, and the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) 2024 STIP Guidelines. The 2024 ITIP covers Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-25 through 2028-29.

California Government Code Section 14526 specifies that the ITIP fund projects that improve interregional movement for people and goods throughout California on the State Highway System (SHS) and develop Intercity Passenger Rail corridors of strategic importance.

North Madera 6 Lane

The North Madera SR 99 6 Lane project is a new project that will enhance freight mobility and relieve traffic congestion by increasing traffic capacity on State Route (SR) 99 from Avenue 17 Overcrossing to Avenue 21½ Overcrossing. Alternative 1 proposes to construct one additional lane in each direction using the existing median. Alternative 2 consists of partial realignment of the SR 99 centerline to the west, before construction of additional lanes.

This segment of SR 99 is essential to the economy of San Joaquin Valley and is critical to the agricultural and commercial transportation in this region. Almonds are the top commodity in both Fresno and Madera counties producing 533,000 tons, valued at \$2 billion. Milk is the

second highest leading commodity in Madera County, valued at approximately \$330 million dollars.

SR 99 is also used by interregional travelers and commuters in Madera and Fresno Counties. The 2021 AADT ranges from 70,000 to 73,000. The 2021 average daily truck traffic within the project limits is approximately 20%. SR 99 is part of the National Highway System as a STRAHNET and a STAA truck route serving San Joaquin Valley.

The continuous six-lane cross section that this project will extend will enable the implementation of managed-lane strategies with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reducing benefits on the SR 99 corridor. Caltrans District 6, in collaboration with the Headquarters (HQ) Sustainability Division, has developed a potential phased approach for the opportunity to implement a managed-lane facility on SR 99. This project would be part of Phase 2 of the approach to implement the managed-lane strategies, estimated to be implemented in 2030. Phase 2 will be one of the last phases needed to complete 325.8 miles of managed lanes on SR 99 within District 6. Managed-lane strategies with VMT reducing benefits will be identified in an interim deliverable (to be completed no later than December of 2023) in the development of the SR 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) currently in progress.

Caltrans is requesting a total of \$4,300,000 in 2024 ITIP funding for the Environmental Phase (PA&ED).

South Madera 6 Lane

The South Madera 6 Lane project is on SR 99 in Madera County from south of Avenue 7 to north of Avenue 12. It is consistent with the CFMP, SR 99 Business Plan, SR 99 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) and the Madera County Transportation Commission RTP.

This project will eliminate the 5.8-mile, four lane bottleneck on SR 99 in the southbound and northbound directions, between Fresno and Madera by providing an additional lane in each direction in the median. The scope of work includes increasing vertical clearance at one of the overcrossing structures.

SR 99 in this vicinity is at the upper end of the spectrum for projects with a very high interregional value with 21 percent truck traffic volume and a relatively high Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT). This project improves operational efficiency on a critical goods movement corridor, providing greater travel-time reliability, throughput, and velocity of freight movement.

This project accomplishes the goals of the 2021 ITSP by balancing local community and interregional needs and improving safety for all users. The project benefits the surrounding disadvantaged communities by increasing connectivity to employment and production centers, education, services, and other opportunities in the region. The project also meets the needs of the SR 99 Business Corridor Plan.

Madera County’s Mid-Cycle RIP funds and SHOPP funds are also currently programmed for this project. Combining this project with the planned SHOPP project in FY 2025-26 achieves significant efficiencies and substantial savings.

A total of \$5,500,000 in 2024 ITIP funding is being requested for additional CON and CON Support.

Madera High-Speed Rail Station Project (for informational purposes only)

The project will construct a new station in Madera County for California’s Interim High-Speed Rail (HSR) Service between Merced and Bakersfield. Located along Avenue 12, the station will provide Madera County with direct access to HSR service and better connect it with Fresno, the larger Central Valley region, and the rest of California. Future transit-oriented development along the Avenue 12 Corridor, together with improved transit connectivity, will ensure that Madera County can capture the full economic and environmental benefits of HSR and sustainable growth patterns.

SJJPA completed environmental review for the improvements needed for the Madera HSR Station for Interim Service in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on January 22, 2021. SJJPA manages the San Joaquins rail service and is expected to be the Operating Agency for HSR Interim Service. SJJPA is responsible for implementing the improvements needed for the Madera HSR Station. SJJPA is working in partnership with the Madera County Transportation Commission, Madera County, City of Madera, Caltrans, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA).

The SJJPA is requesting \$80,000,000 in 2024 ITIP funding.

ITIP Schedule

Action	Date
CTC adopts Fund Estimate and Guidelines	August 16-17, 2023
Caltrans identifies State Highway Needs	September 15, 2023
Caltrans submits draft ITIP	October 15, 2023
CTC ITIP Hearing, South	November 1, 2023
CTC ITIP Hearing, North	November 8, 2023
MCTC adopts 2024 RTIP	November 29, 2023
Regions submit RTIP to CTC	December 15, 2023
Caltrans submits ITIP to CTC	December 15, 2023
CTC STIP Hearing, North	January 25, 2024
CTC STIP Hearing, South	February 1, 2024
CTC publishes staff recommendations	March 1, 2024
CTC Adopts 2024 STIP	March 21-22, 2024

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2023-24 Overall Work Program and Budget.