



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of October 19, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4-I  
**PREPARED BY:** Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

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**SUBJECT:**

Letter of Support for 2022 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) Application: Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project

**Enclosure:** Yes

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only

**SUMMARY:**

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) provided a letter of support to the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) on the **UP (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project** application for the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) competitive grant program. Caltrans and SJRRRC are requesting \$40 million in TCEP funding (\$16 million from statewide TCEP and \$24 million from regional corridor TCEP). More information on the Valley Rail Program and Ceres to Merced ACE extension is available on the SJRRRC website (<https://www.sjrrc.com/valley-rail/>). MCTC previously submitted a letter of support for this project in Stanislaus County for the federal INFRA application.

The **UP (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project** will construct a new, second mainline track and complete track upgrades on a portion of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Fresno Subdivision between milepost (MP) 117.4 (in Ceres) and MP 128.2 (in Turlock), including culvert, under crossing, and at-grade crossing improvements. The Project aligns with the MPDG program criteria by constructing freight rail improvements that will increase safety, modernize core infrastructure, improve system operations and reliability, reduce transportation-related pollution, and benefit a federally designated Area of Persistent Poverty, Historically Disadvantaged Community, and Opportunity Zone, as well as a state designated Disadvantaged Community, Economically Distressed Area, and Low-Income Community. The Project is a critical part of the "Valley Rail" passenger rail expansion program that will enable Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service to operate between Ceres and Turlock and is needed to ultimately connect ACE service to HSR at Merced. The Project substantially increases Valley Rail Program benefits in the Northern San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Region, and Bay Area.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget.