



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of April 21, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 5-E

PREPARED BY: Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Caltrans Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) Letter

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Approve letter supporting the inclusion of SR 41 from San Joaquin River to Yosemite National Park for inclusion in the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP)

SUMMARY:

The MCTC Policy Board, at their February 17, 2021 meeting, directed staff to draft a letter requesting Caltrans to include SR 41 from the San Joaquin River to Yosemite National Park in the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP). The ITSP is a 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 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) 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 ITIP funding. Caltrans is currently updating the ITSP with anticipated adoption in December 2021. The Draft ITSP will be available in Spring/Summer 2021.

Caltrans conducted three virtual workshops for the Northern, Central (Central Valley/Central Coast) and Southern Regions of the State. The presentation may be found [here](#). Additional information about the ITSP Plan may be found on the [2021 ITSP Website](#) and the [ITSP Website](#).

The Madera County Transportation (MCTC) has previously requested the inclusion of State Route (SR) 41 through Madera County in the ITSP in previous years. 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 2020-21 Overall Work Program and Budget.