



March 8, 2022

The Honorable Lee Ann Eager
Chair
California Transportation Commission
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tab 23

Re: Support for Final 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program; Support for 2022 ITIP Investments into State Route 99

Dear Chair Eager,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), and the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) write to express our enthusiastic support for the Final 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (Final 2022 ITIP) released by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on December 15, 2021. The Final 2022 ITIP proposes to fund cost increases for the current program of projects, to program limited subsequent project phases for currently programmed projects, and to add a few new active transportation, intercity rail, and highway projects and we respectfully request the Commission to adopt the Final 2022 ITIP.

We are grateful for the inclusion of funding for State Route 99 (SR 99) as it serves as a critical north-south corridor for goods movement throughout California, supports the largest agricultural region in the United States, and is a vital corridor for daily life for the 4.4 million residents of the San Joaquin Valley. We recognize the Final 2022 ITIP only has \$178.2 million in new capacity to bring to bear for cost increases, new phases, and new projects to deliver a safe, efficient, and multimodal interregional transportation system. The Final 2022 ITIP includes funding for these key SR 99 projects:

- The **South Madera 6 Lane Widening Project** (Madera County from south of Avenue 7 to north of Avenue 12). 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 **Tulare City Widening Project**. This project will eliminate the 5 mile, four-lane bottleneck on SR 99 in the City of Tulare, between Avenue 200 and Prosperity Avenue by providing an additional lane in each direction in the median.
- The **Livingston Widening Southbound Project** (Merced County). This project is 8 miles from south of Hammatt Ave to the Merced/Stanislaus County line. The widening is from 2 to 3 lanes in the median. SR 99 north and south of the project area is an existing six-lane freeway. The Livingston Widening *Northbound* Project is currently under construction.
- The **South Tulare 99 Project** (northwards from Delano). Funded specifically with SR 99 bond funds (expected CTC action January 2022), this innovative project will make permanent 13.5 miles of temporary lanes in southern Tulare.

MCTC, MCAG, and TCAG – and the communities we represent – are steadfast in our commitment to finishing SR 99 to six-lanes throughout. Finishing SR 99 will help reduce significant safety issues along the

highly traveled corridor and create economic vitality through the efficient movement of goods and services. Moreover, these goals can be achieved while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as demonstrated by our SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy, which the California Air Resources Board has approved.

We also support the state's overarching goals for California's transportation system – multimodal, safe, efficient, accessible, equitable, and sustainable. Along with our other San Joaquin Valley regional transportation agency partners, we have and will continue to prioritize investments in rail, intercity rail, transit, and active transportation infrastructure and mobility options. We are also actively supporting the state's zero-emission vehicle goals, endeavor to support affordable housing development, and strive to stand-up disadvantaged communities and make investments to create opportunities for *all* our residents.

We are pleased to report that we have just wrapped up a focused summit on SR 99 as required by the Final 2022 ITIP and are anxious to assist Caltrans to complete a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan for SR 99. We recognize these are conditions of funding for the South Madera 6 Lane Widening Project and we are fully committed to these important and complementary efforts.

Again, we support the Final 2022 ITIP, including funding for SR 99, and respectfully request the Commission's adoption at its March 15-16 CTC meeting.

Sincerely,



Stacie Guzman
Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments



Ted Smalley
Executive Director
Tulare County Association of Governments



Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission

cc: Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Mitch Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Steven Keck, Acting Director, California Department of Transportation
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Mark Tollefson, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom



2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

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

March 8, 2022

Lee Ann Eager, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Chair Eager,

The Madera County Transportation Commission Policy Board is grateful for the inclusion of funding for State Route 99 (SR 99), including the South Madera 6 Lane Widening Project (Madera County from south of Avenue 7 to north of Avenue 12) in the 2022 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), and ask for your approval. This project will eliminate the 5.8 mile, four-lane bottleneck on SR 99 in the southbound and northbound directions, between the cities of Fresno and Madera by providing an additional lane in each direction in the median.

Over 25 percent of the nation's produce is grown in the San Joaquin Valley, making SR 99 the backbone of the region's agriculture economy. Identified in the California Freight Plan, this project will strengthen a high volume, major goods movement section of SR 99 between the Cities of Madera and Fresno and reduce travel time for perishable commodities to go from farm to market throughout the United States and around the world. Renewed investment in this critical route will improve goods movement and passenger travel along SR 99. The project will include the installation of new zero-emission vehicle infrastructure to help Madera meet shared local and state goals of accommodating a growing zero-emissions fleet. It will also upgrade drainage, and construct drainage basins and a median barrier. Furthermore, funding this project will stimulate job creation in an area faced with consistent high unemployment.

The Madera SR 99 South project is vital to Madera County residents and the region. This important infrastructure project has been selected by the community to be part of the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy and is part of a long-range community vision intended to help Madera County reduce harmful emissions, improve traveler safety, and support a robust and vibrant economy.

We are pleased to report that we have just wrapped up the SR 99 Summit (March 3 and 4), as required by the Final 2022 ITIP and are committed to assist Caltrans to complete a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan for the SR 99.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Commission adopt the Final 2022 ITIP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being particularly prominent.

Tom Wheeler
Chair

Madera County Transportation Commission

cc: Members of the California Transportation Commission
Mitchell Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Steven Keck, Acting Director, Department of Transportation
Diana Gomez, Director, Caltrans District 6
Michael Navarro, Deputy District Director, Caltrans District 6
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Assembly Member, 5th District
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator, 12th District



March 3, 2022

Mr. Mitch Weiss
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email to ctc@catc.ca.gov

RE: Interregional Transportation Improvement Program – King City Rail Platform (Project #9890) and Rail Funding – Support

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), I am writing to support the inclusion of the King City Platform & Multimodal Station, Phase One (project #9890) and the other rail projects in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP). The proposed ITIP funds will support the construction of a train platform in downtown King City to enable a stop on the Coast Starlight in the near term and for future additional passenger rail service along the coast in the long term. This project along with the other rail projects listed as nominated but not recommended will support the goals of the adopted California State Rail Plan (2018) and help the State in its ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

The King City Platform & Multimodal Station, Phase One project will provide new rail access to travelers on the Central Coast, including to the US Army Fort Hunter Liggett. The project will promote economic development around the rail station and increase connectivity and access to jobs and services for low-income, minority communities. This project provides an alternative to vehicular travel, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions while improving air quality.

Our Agency appreciates the Commission's consideration of ITIP funding for the King City Rail Platform project as a critical improvement to facilitate the improvement of rail service in our region, and a means to support the State climate action goals. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Watson of my staff at (831) 775-4406 or via email at christina@tamcmonterey.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Muck". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Todd Muck
Executive Director