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November 29, 2022

California Transportation Commission  
Executive Director  
1120 N Street, MS-52  
P.O. Box 942873  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Local Partnership Program (LPP) Competitive Project Nomination

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) is nominating the SR-99/Caldwell Avenue Interchange, Safety and Multi-Modal Project for LPP Competitive Program funding. The project is being implemented by Caltrans District 6 and is currently in the design and right-of-way phase. This request is for \$15 million in LPP funding with a total construction phase cost of \$55.6 million.

This project will reconstruct an existing interchange at SR99 and Caldwell Avenue to improve safety, traffic flow and multi-modal connections to support vital regional services such as healthcare (Valley Children's Healthcare Clinic and Kaweah Delta Outpatient Surgery Center) and economic development and employment opportunities for underserved disadvantaged communities in the area. The project will leverage the LPP funding with 73% (\$40.6 million) of the total construction cost coming from federal, state and local sources.

The SR-99/Commercial Ave Interchange project is one of the original projects approved by Tulare County voters with the passage of the Regional Transportation Sales Tax (Measure R) in 2006. The project will provide better and safer connectivity to SR-99. SR-99 is a goods movement backbone for the State that is used by both trucks and commuters between communities and rural agricultural areas throughout the San Joaquin Valley. It is also the main link that connects the San Joaquin Valley with the Sacramento, San Francisco/San Jose and Los Angeles metro areas.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am confident this project will achieve the goals of the LPP grant program by supporting improved safety, regional economic vitality and multi-modal access, especially to disadvantaged communities throughout the region. Please contact the TCAG Executive Director, Ted Smalley at (559)623-0450 with any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

  
Ted Smalley  
Executive Director, TCAG