



October 20, 2022

Steven A. Nelsen  
Mayor

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

Brian Poochigian  
Vice Mayor

RE: State Route 99/Caldwell Ave Interchange LPP Grant Application

Gregory F. Collins  
Councilmember

Dear Chair Eager,

Brett Taylor  
Councilmember

The City of Visalia is pleased to support the \$15 million competitive Local Partnership Program (LPP) grant request for the SR99/Caldwell Ave project submitted by the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Valley Children's Healthcare.

Liz Wynn  
Councilmember

The City of Visalia relies on State Route 99 to provide major goods movement throughout the Valley and is utilized by both trucks and commuters between communities and rural areas throughout the San Joaquin Valley. It interrelates with Highway 198 that connects us with communities to the west, and with the major thoroughfare I-5, that connects the San Joaquin Valley with the Sacramento, Bay Area and Los Angeles metro areas.

This is a major project that will provide economic stimulus to the region in a number of ways. It 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 Health) and economic development and employment opportunities for underserved disadvantaged communities in the area. The project will leverage the LPP funding with 70% (\$35.4 million) of the total construction cost (\$50.4 million) coming from federal, state and local sources.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The City is 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, Theodore Smalley at (559)623-0450 with any questions regarding this project, or me at [steve.nelsen@visalia.city](mailto:steve.nelsen@visalia.city) with any questions regarding our support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Nelsen".

Steve Nelsen  
Mayor  
City of Visalia