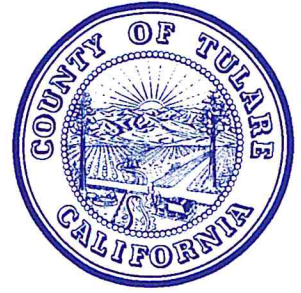


COUNTY OF TULARE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



PETE VANDER POEL

Supervisor - District Two

May 11, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: State Route 99/Commercial Interchange BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to support the \$16 million Better Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant request for the State Route 99 Interchange Project submitted by the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS).

State Route 99 is a major corridor 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 metropolitan area, via Interstate 5. It's worth noting that this project complements ongoing state, county and private sector transportation investments.

This project will construct a new interchange on State Route 99 between 0.9 mile north of the Avenue 200 overcrossing and 0.5 mile north of the Paige Avenue overcrossing near the City of Tulare in Tulare County, CA and will leverage more than 70% in non-federal funding supporting this public-private partnership (\$16 million from CALTRANS, \$26.82 million from Measure R funds, and \$8 million in private funding).

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am confident this project will achieve the goals of the BUILD grant program by supporting national and regional economic vitality, especially in the rural areas and in support of the agricultural industries, and through the projects leveraging of more than 70% in non-federal funding. Please feel free to contact the TCAG Executive Director, Theodore Smalley at (559) 623-0463, or me at (559) 636-5000 with any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Vander Poel", is written over a horizontal line.

Pete Vander Poel, District 2
Tulare County Board of Supervisors