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Assembly
California Legislature



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TRANSPORTATION

TAB 66

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Bob Alvarado
Chair, California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Extensions Requests for Road 80 and Road 108

Dear Chairman Alvarado:

On behalf of the Tulare County Association of Governments (T/CAG), I respectfully request that you grant an extension during your October 14th-15^h meeting that would allow T/CAG to receive State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Proposition 1B State and Local Partnership (SLPP) funding in order to complete critical work within the county on Road 80 and Road 108.

Both of these projects are critical arterials to Tulare County's interregional connection. The Road 108 Corridor is currently a two-lane route provides access between the county's two largest cities: Visalia and Tulare. TCAG has identified a five mile long stretch within the corridor as a priority to be widened from two to four lanes. This project is necessary for a variety of reasons. Safety is a problem on this high speed and voluminous route as motorists repeatedly make unsafe passing maneuvers into the opposing lane of traffic. Road 108 is also parallel to State Route (SR) 99 and improvements would relieve intercity traffic on SR 99 between both cities. Furthermore, intersection delays are expected to continue to degrade as traffic volumes increase which impacts the region's commuters and commerce. The widening project is scheduled to begin construction in fiscal year (FY) 2009-10 at a cost of \$29.5 million and reliant upon SLPP funding.

The Road 80 Corridor is another vital route that provides access to the region's commercial and industrial areas in the Cities of Dinuba and Visalia. TCAG has identified the 15 mile long corridor as a high priority for lane widening. The first phase of widening (three miles in north Visalia) has recently been completed at a cost of about \$8 million. The remaining phases (12 miles) area currently scheduled to begin construction in FY 2008-09 and 2010-11 for a total of \$80 million. This project is being funded from a variety of sources including the STIP, SLPP and through Measure R, the local sales tax measure.

The STIP is the primary source of funding for four of the five phases on the Road 80 corridor and is the most essential funding component for completion of these widening projects. T/CAG acknowledges that it missed the deadline due to several competing items, particularly the application deadlines for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, but has implemented new procedures that will ensure that this will not happen again.