



For Immediate Release

May 25, 2018
Stacie Dabbs
Deputy Executive Director
(209)723-3153 x 109
stacie.dabbs@mcagov.org

SB 1 Funding Approved for Highway 99 Widening Project in Merced County

MERCED- The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced last week that \$2.7 billion in competitive grants funded through the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1) was awarded by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to 64 projects throughout the State of California to tackle congestion, support valuable trade corridors and bolster local agency efforts to invest in transportation.

Among the projects approved was the Northbound State Route 99 (SR-99) Livingston Median Widening Project in Merced County. This \$37 million project will widen northbound SR-99 to three lanes (from the two existing) through Livingston and Delhi, including widening of the bridge over the Merced River. The widening project will reduce congestion, improve goods movement, and remove a bottleneck condition where SR-99 is already three lanes to the north and south of the project. This project is a result of a partnership between the State of California and Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), which is contributing \$5.5 million of regional transportation funding. The State funding is provided by the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) which was approved by the CTC. Construction for the Livingston Median Widening Project is scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2019. The complementary Southbound State Route 99 Livingston Median Widening Project is programmed on a later construction schedule through a different funding source.

The Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, created by Senate Bill 1, will provide approximately \$300 million annually throughout the state for infrastructure improvements on federally designated Trade Corridors of National and Regional Significance, on the Primary Freight Network, and along other corridors that have a high volume of freight movement. Currently, California serves as the nation's largest gateway for international trade and domestic commerce, and freight movement which generates about a third of California's \$2.2 trillion economy. The CTC approved three years' worth of funding (fiscal years 2017-20) totaling approximately \$1.4 billion be awarded to 28 projects, valued at more than \$4 billion.

Additional approved Trade Corridor Enhancement Program projects can be found at:
http://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/tcep/docs/2018_Adopted_TCEP.pdf.

The Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB 1), the landmark transportation infrastructure bill signed by Governor Brown in April 2017, invests \$54 billion over the next decade to fix roads, freeways and bridges in communities across California and puts more dollars toward transit and safety. These funds will be split equally between state and local investments. For complete details on SB 1, visit <http://www.rebuildingca.ca.gov/>.

##