



Merced County, CA: Connecting Highway 99 to University Community and New Jobs

Support MCAG's TIGER Grant Request for \$13 million

Goal:

The Campus Parkway project will create new middle-class jobs, serve the new University of California - Merced and its prospective community and connect three state highways (99, 140 and 59). The project will kick-off planned development, including a new industrial distribution center as well as a planned regional major commercial center – **creating 5,800 jobs**. It will be one leg of a loop system to relieve congestion and improve commuter and goods movement traffic flow.

Description:

Campus Parkway Segment 2 involves the construction of a new 4-lane limited access expressway on the east side of the City of Merced extending from Childs Avenue to north of State Route 140. Segment 2 continues from Segment 1 which was completed in 2010.

Our TIGER application requests \$13 million; total project cost is \$33 million. All funds are for construction as the project is “shovel ready”. Our region has a strong local commitment with the County of Merced, City of Merced, MCAG and UC Merced each contributing financially to the \$20 million match.

Necessity:

- Provides primary link to University of California and growing University Community
- Creates additional north-south arterial within rapidly growing Merced region.
- Creates jobs in an Economically Distress Area (Unemployment consistently above 15%)
- Part of Loop System around City to improve traffic flow
- Enables economic development in eastern and northern Merced
- Provides corridor for transit and bicycle facilities to UC Merced with the development of a Class 1 Bike Path which will interconnect with existing bicycle network
- Project includes a Park & Ride facility to encourage commuters to rideshare with easy access to Highways 99, 140 and 59
- Creates the second north-south route in Merced that will not have an at-grade crossing of the BNSF railroad.

Beneficiaries:

- Merced residents and business
- UC Merced students, faculty, staff and visitors
- University Community (planned for 30,000 residents)
- Highway 99 travelers
- Industrial park needs this access to develop and create middle-class jobs.
- Tourists; by improving access to Highway 140 from Highway 99 which is the gateway to Yosemite National Park

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