



Merced County Association of Governments

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April 5, 2004

Ms. Diane Eidam, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
Mail Station 52
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Submittal of 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Ms. Eidam:


The Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) is pleased to submit the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Merced County. On March 18, 2004, the MCAG Governing Board adopted the 2004 RTIP by resolution.

MCAG's Governing Board is requesting that the Mission Avenue Interchange project on Highway 99 is considered for the next GARVEE bond cycle in fiscal year 2005/2006. The Mission Avenue project was last included in MCAG 1998 and 2000 RTIP documents and 100% funded for Right-of-Way acquisition and construction in fiscal year 2003/04. Now in 2004, due to California's fiscal debt, there is insufficient State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) - Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funding for either of these phases. This project is vital to the economic development of Merced County by providing access and egress on Highway 99. The Mission Ave. Interchange needs to be constructed in 2005/2006.

Also, included in the MCAG resolution is the nomination of the Bradley Overhead project for \$1.9 million in Transportation Enhancement Activity (TEA) funding. This bridge replacement project is funded with a combination of State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and RIP monies. Construction on this project must start in 2006 or the SHOPP funding is subject to reprogramming.

On behalf of our member jurisdictions, thank you for your consideration of our program proposal. We look forward to a positive response from the California Transportation Commission. If you have any questions, or require any additional information, please contact Marjie Kirn at (209) 723-3153 extension 306 or marjie@mcag.cog.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Jesse Brown
Executive Director

cc:

Jim Nicholas

Julie Dunning, District 10

Enclosure: 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program