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June 30, 2020

California Transportation Commission  
Executive Director  
1120 N Street, MS-52  
P.O. Box 942873  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Local Partnership Program (LPP) Competitive Project Nomination

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) is nominating the SR-99/Commercial Avenue Interchange project for LPP Competitive Program funding. The project is being implemented by Caltrans District 6 and is currently in the design and right-of-way phase. This request is for \$25 million in LPP funding with a total construction phase cost of \$52.8 million.

The project will construct a new interchange on SR-99 at Commercial Avenue at the southern gateway to the City of Tulare and includes adding auxiliary lanes on SR-99 between the new interchange and the Paige Avenue interchange to the north. This project has progressed as a result of a unique public/private partnership where private funds paid for half the cost of the environmental analysis and 80% of the needed right of way is being dedicated at no cost to Caltrans.

State Route 99 is a goods movement backbone for the State that is 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 Metro area and Los Angeles via Interstate 5. It's worth noting that this project complements ongoing state, county and private sector transportation investments.

The SR-99/Commercial Ave Interchange project is one of the original projects voted upon by Tulare County voters with the passage of the Regional Transportation Sales Tax (Measure R) in 2006. The completion of the project will alleviate congestion and safety concerns at the existing SR-99/Paige Avenue Interchange and will allow for the expansion of economic development in a disadvantaged community. In addition, the project includes bike lanes and sidewalks that connect to the arterials east (Laspina Street) and west (K Street) of the new interchange providing multi-modal access that Paige Avenue does not have currently.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. If you have any questions, please contact myself at (559)623-0458 or [tsmalley@tularecog.org](mailto:tsmalley@tularecog.org).

Sincerely,

  
Ted Smalley  
Executive Director, TCAG