

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0032
(916) 319-2032
FAX (916) 319-2132



May 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Assemblymember representing Kern and Tulare Counties, I strongly support the Tulare SR 99 Corridor and Paige Avenue Multimodal Interchange Improvements project for consideration in the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. Caltrans and TCAG have requested a total of \$98 million in MPDG grant funding while also committing \$74 million as a non-federal funding match for the Project. The total construction cost of the Project is \$172 million.

The Project will significantly improve goods movement, create express transit service, and allow for future lane management along a critical interregional corridor, State Route 99, by providing a consistent six-lane cross section, closing an existing gap. At Paige Ave in the City of Tulare, Project will reconstruct four outdated hook ramps into a consolidated interchange, featuring sequential roundabouts at the ramp termini and adjacent local street intersections.

SR 99 is the transportation backbone of Tulare County and the entire Central Valley, and is a critical goods movement artery for the State. It is because of the need for freight mobility and safety for Tulare County, the Central Valley and the State as a whole that continued investment in projects like this are critical. The Project aligns with MPDG program criteria by constructing infrastructure improvements that will contribute to national economic benefits, create and foster well-paying jobs, and bolster system reliability and resiliency. Through multimodal improvements, the Project will enhance the quality of life and advance equity for surrounding Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities.

Asm. Vince Fong would like to thank USDOT for its consideration of this Project.

Sincerely,

Vince Fong
Assemblymember, 32nd District