

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) supports the application of the Madera County Transportation Commission to the United States Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD 2018) competitive grant program for the Madera SR 99 Avenue 12 to Avenue 17 Goods Movement Widening Project (Project).

The Project will widen approximately 7.6 miles on State Route 99 from four-lanes to six-lanes by constructing an additional lane primarily within the existing median in both northbound and southbound direction. The BUILD 2018 application is requesting \$15 million to bring the Project to construction. The total estimated cost of the project is \$81.4 million. The remaining funds needed will be from State funds, Measure C, and the County's regional transportation funds. State Route 99 is crucial to the economic vitality of the State of California and the Central Valley, and is heavily used by international shippers, commuters, and recreational travelers.

The Project is identified in the California Freight Plan as a high priority shovel-ready project. Approximately half of the State's goods movement passes through the Valley with destinations at ports, major urban centers in California, other states, and other countries. The widening of State Route 99 will improve the movement of major goods through this section of the Central Valley and reduce the time it takes for perishable commodities to go from farm to markets throughout the United States and around the world.

Completion of this Project will improve safety, reduce congestion, and increase connectivity of the highway system to major ports in both northern and southern California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurie Berman".

LAURIE BERMAN
Director