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California State Senate

SENATOR
MARIE ALVARADO-GIL, M.P.A.
CHAIR, HUMAN SERVICES
FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

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October 31, 2024

The Honorable Tanisha Taylor
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2024 Local Partnership Program (LPP) Competitive Letter of Support for the Seventh Street Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Director Taylor:

I write to express my strong support for the Stanislaus County (County) Seventh Street Bridge Replacement Project (Project) grant application for the California Transportation Commission (CTC) 2024 Local Partnership Program (LPP) competitive grant program.

Built in 1916, the existing cantilevered concrete arched bridge has significant structural and hydraulic deficiencies and has a Sufficiency Rating of 2 out of 100. As such, the vehicle weight has been restricted to 4 tons gross load since 1979, restricting emergency vehicles, trucks, and bus transit from using the facility. These deficiencies make the bridge vulnerable to storm and seismic events that could potentially cause catastrophic failure. The existing two-lane bridge also has functional deficiencies due to its inadequate width, lack of bicycle facilities and narrow sidewalks.

As the risk for catastrophic bridge failures increases and the vulnerability for pedestrians and cyclists remain a concern, this project is critical for the safety of my constituents and those who utilize adjacent roadways, such as the State Route 99 freeway.

The Project is supported by several agencies within Stanislaus County, including the City of Modesto, Caltrans, and Stanislaus Council of Governments. This proactive proposal would replace the existing bridge with a modern facility that meets vertical clearance and hydraulic requirements; add Class II bike lanes, a Class I multi-use path on the west side of the bridge, and standard sidewalk on the east side of the bridge; including two standard travel lanes in each direction with a raised median; and accommodates truck freight and transit buses. The Project reduces vehicle-miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, lowers traffic volumes on the State Route 99 freeway, reduces travel times, and addresses multimodal safety and accessibility needs.

The Project benefits underserved populations who will be provided low-cost and healthful transportation choices and access to employment centers. The Project alternative was selected to involve the least amount of displacement to area residents and businesses while minimizing impacts to the natural environment of the Tuolumne River.

As the Senator representing Stanislaus County, I value my working relationship with StanCOG and strongly support their LPP application. Given the many public and private benefits and the widespread agency support associated with this project for our region, I urge you to consider their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marie Alvarado-Gil". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Marie Alvarado-Gil
State Senator, 4th District