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California State Senate

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

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November 4, 2024

Ms. Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2024 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program Support for State Route 132 West Gates to Dakota (Phase 3A)

Dear Ms. Taylor:

I write to express my support of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Stanislaus Council of Governments' (StanCOG) application to the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) application for the State Route (SR) 132 West Gates to Dakota Project (Project). Once built, the Project will shift SR 132 freight and commuter traffic from Maze Boulevard onto a new alignment of SR 132 to the north. The Project will extend the recently constructed SR 132 expressway further west, from Dakota Avenue to Gates Road, constructing approximately five miles of new two-lane limited access expressway with new overcrossings at Dakota Avenue and Hart Road and a roundabout at Gates Road/Paradise Road. The Project will also install zero emission vehicle (ZEV) charging infrastructure.

SR 132 is a critical east-west corridor in Stanislaus County and the larger Central Valley that provides connectivity between SR 99 and I-5, including access to my Modesto District Office. It is essential to move freight between the farms of the Central Valley and the Port of Oakland. Some of SR 132 is still aligned on Maze Boulevard, an old two-lane road with driveway access, multiple intersections, and several adjacent schools. The large volumes of freight and commuter travel on this road is unsafe and causes travel delays. Additionally, the traffic currently passes right through the middle of underserved and low-income communities, negatively impacting them for decades.

The Project will provide improvements that will reduce freight and vehicle travel times, improve system reliability, and lower the number of collisions. This will support continued economic growth and job creation in the region. The Project will also significantly reduce vehicle volumes on Maze Boulevard in underserved communities which will enhance multimodal safety and connectivity and improve air quality. Additionally, the Project will contribute to the expansion of ZEV charging infrastructure and support adoption of electric vehicles.

As the Senator representing Stanislaus County, I value my working relationship with StanCOG and I would like to thank CTC for considering this important Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marie Alvarado-Gil".

Marie Alvarado-Gil
State Senator, 4th District