

September 8, 2005

Gregg Albright  
Director  
Caltrans District 5  
50 Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5414

**RE: ITIP/RTIP Partnership for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lane Project**

Dear Mr. Albright:

The Regional Transportation Commission hereby requests that Caltrans program 25% of the total project costs for the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP). The estimated cost for project development and capital construction is \$11.1 million (in 2005 dollars) as presented in the Draft Supplemental Project Study Report, currently under review by District staff.

This project presents an outstanding partnership opportunity for the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Regional Transportation Commission has already agreed to consider programming a portion of our county's share of Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) funds to this project when they adopt the 2006 RTIP. Additionally, SAFETEA-LU included a \$2.9 million earmark for the project.

The Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project is a strong candidate for the ITIP and has been identified by your staff as the most critical new state highway project in our region. As you know, this section of roadway is heavily congested with average daily traffic volumes (ADT) over 115,000, the second highest ADT in District 5. Construction of the auxiliary lane, in combination with construction of the Highway 1/17 Merge Lane project, will improve the overall operation of this High Emphasis Route through Santa Cruz County.

I urge you to nominate this project for the ITIP and look forward to working with you to ensure its inclusion in the 2006 STIP.

Sincerely,

Pat Dellin  
Acting Executive Director

cc: Ross Chittenden, Caltrans Programming  
Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Planning