

# *Caltrans Update*

## *Fresno Council of Governments*

### **CALTRANS MISSION:**

*Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability*



## **CTC UPDATE**

### **DECEMBER 12, 2014 UPDATE: \$254 MILLION IN FUNDING ALLOCATED TO UPGRADE HIGHWAY, RAIL AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated over \$254 million for 41 transportation projects that will enhance the safety and mobility of Californians throughout the state, which includes \$3.4 million for locally-administered Active Transportation Program projects that encourage biking and walking.

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“Investing in our infrastructure benefits Californians for generations to come and these projects will improve mobility for all users of the transportation system, whether they choose to travel by car, take transit or ride a bicycle,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

The allocations included \$116.2 million from Proposition 1B, the 2006 voter-approved transportation bond. This included \$108 million to purchase diesel-electric locomotives and bi-level passenger railcars to improve intercity rail service by providing new capacity and replacing aging Amtrak-owned locomotives. Portions of that allocation will also be utilized for installing video and audio communications to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disability Act. Since its passage, more than \$18 billion in Proposition 1B funds have been put to work statewide for transportation purposes.

The remaining \$134.9 million in allocations came from assorted transportation accounts funded by state and federal dollars.

One of the more notable projects that received an allocation included:

•**Kings County:** \$419,000 – Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities on Cinnamon Drive in Lemoore. This project will construct a bicycle facility in the road-

## **CTC UPDATE, CONTINUED**

way and ADA compliant pedestrian facilities off the roadway to improve safety and access for residents to nearby facilities.

### **OCTOBER 9, 2014 UPDATE: \$1 BILLION IN NEW FUNDING ALLOCATED TO UPGRADE STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

In October, 2014, The state's vast transportation system received a major infusion of cash, as the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$1 billion to repair local streets and state highways, improve public transit and alleviate traffic delays statewide.

"This funding helps preserve California's great infrastructure and puts thousands of Californians to work building sustainable, new improvements," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "The investment in highway preservation and innovation is absolutely critical to California's economy."

The allocation of \$750 million in federal funds for Caltrans' Local Assistance Program annually pays for more than 1,200 projects designed to improve local roads, bridges and public transit. In the months ahead, more than 600 city, county and regional transportation agencies will submit their projects to Caltrans for review and approval to ensure compliance with federal requirements.

The CTC also allocated nearly \$87 million to Caltrans to pay for the operating expenses for the Pacific Surfliner and San Joaquin intercity passenger rail services. These routes are two of the five busiest in the Amtrak system. Ridership on the three state-supported rail routes (which includes the Capitol Corridor) for federal fiscal year 2013 was a record 5.6 million. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, per passenger mile, travel by rail generates about half the carbon dioxide emission of an automobile trip.

The CTC closed out the allocations by approving \$170 million for 29 additional projects, including these notable projects:

Kings County: \$1,275,000 – 19th Avenue Interchange Landscaping in Lemoore, on State Route 198 at 19th Avenue. Various planting to provide aesthetic softening and slope erosion control to the newly constructed 19th Avenue interchange.

Kern County: \$594,000 – Rails to Trails Phase IV in the city of Taft, on Sunset Railroad corridor, from 2nd Street to State Route 119. Construct 2,900 feet of bike/pedestrian path; infill half mile of future 5 mile bike/pedestrian path and decrease bike commute time.

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## CALTRANS LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE GAME TO TEACH TEEN DRIVERS SAFE DRIVING SKILLS IN HIGHWAY WORK ZONES

In an effort to fight distracted driving and raise public awareness, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) joined with the Office of Traffic Safety and the California Highway Patrol in observing National Teen Driver Safety week October 19-25. To further its commitment to teen driver safety, Caltrans has launched an interactive, mobile and online game called "Distraction Zone" that helps educate teen drivers about safe driving. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for 14- to 18-year-olds in the United States.



"Playing the Distraction Zone game will provide teens with lifelong skills that will not only help keep these young drivers safe, but protect highway workers," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

According to 2012 data from The National Highway Traffic Safety Association, among drivers 15 to 19 years old who were distracted in fatal crashes, nearly 1 in 5 were distracted by their phones. Speeding is also a common contributing factor in fatal crashes. In 2012, speeding was a factor in almost half (48 percent) of the crashes that killed 15- to 20-year-old drivers.

The Distraction Zone game is specifically designed to reinforce key safe driving behaviors like avoiding distractions, being alert, and slowing down when approaching highway work zones. The mobile and online format helps get teen drivers engaged while actively learning safe driving skills. Mobile versions of the game are available for download on Google Play and the online version is played at:

[www.DistractionZone.com](http://www.DistractionZone.com)

As always, teens should not play the game or text while driving.

An added incentive to entice teen game play is a contest being run by the campaign's media partner, iHeart Media. The Distraction Zone contest invites teen players to submit their highest game score for a chance to win cash prizes. The top prize, donated by iHeart Media, is \$500. Players can play multiple times to achieve their best score and enter the contest between now and June 15, 2015.

*If you would like more  
information, please  
visit*

[www.BeWorkZoneAlert.com](http://www.BeWorkZoneAlert.com)

## **SB-1077: ROAD USAGE CHARGE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE & PILOT PROGRAM**

On September 29, 2014 the Governor signed Senate Bill 1077 (DeSaulnier, Road Usage Charge Pilot Program) mandating the Chair of the California Transportation Commission (CTC), in consultation with the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), to create a 15-member Road Usage Charge Technical Advisory Committee. This Committee will study road usage charge alternatives to the gas tax and will make recommendations to the CalSTA Secretary on the design of the pilot program. CalSTA must implement a road usage charge pilot program by January 1, 2017 based on the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee and submit to the Legislature, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the CTC, a report of its findings by June 30, 2018.

SB 1077 requires the Technical Advisory Committee to consult with highway users and transportation stakeholders including representatives of vehicle users, vehicle manufacturers, and fuel distributors. The Committee will undertake an open and inclusive process to engage these and other organizations, as well as the public, to participate and provide support to the Committee in its study of usage charge alternatives and development of recommendations on pilot program design.

The appointment of members to the Technical Advisory Committee was formalized at the December 10, 2014 CTC meeting. The following were appointed:

- James Madaffer - Commissioner, CTC;
- James A. Misener - Board Member, Intelligent Transportation Society of California;
- Gautam Hans - Director and Policy Counsel, Center for Democracy and Technology;
- David Finigan - Supervisor, Del Norte County;
- Scott Haggerty - Supervisor, Alameda County;
- Robert Poythress - Mayor, City of Madera;
- Pam O'Connor - Mayor, City of Santa Monica;
- Senator Jim Beall (D - San Jose) - California State Senate;
- Stephen Finnegan - Manager of Government & Community Affairs, Automobile Club of Southern California;
- Eric Sauer - Vice- President of Policy & Government Relations, California Trucking Association;
- Martin Wachs - Professor Emeritus, University of California Los Angeles Luskin School of Public Affairs; and
- Loren Kaye - President, Foundation for Commerce and Education.

To meet the statutory requirements outlined in SB 1077, it is anticipated that the Committee will meet monthly, or more often as determined by the Committee, to allow for the time necessary to prepare for implementation of the pilot program by January 1, 2017. The first meeting of the Committee is anticipated to be held on January 23, 2015 in Sacramento. This meeting will address Committee operating procedures, planned meeting dates, and other administrative requirements in addition to road usage charge pilot program considerations.

## **CALTRANS COMPLETES NEW SEGMENT OF KINGS CANYON EXPRESSWAY IN FRESNO COUNTY**

Continuing the push to improve transportation in the Fresno area, Caltrans and the Fresno County Transportation Authority celebrated the completion of the second segment of a project that is upgrading 13 miles of the Kings Canyon Expressway (SR-180) from a two-lane highway to a four lane expressway.

To celebrate the completion, Caltrans held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 14, 2014 in a cul-de-sac just south of Highway 180 and just west of Smith Avenue, near Centerville, east of Fresno. The ceremony was open to the public. Speakers at the event included Caltrans director Malcolm X. Dougherty, vice chairwoman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors Judy Case McNairy, California Transportation commissioner Darius Assemi, California Highway Patrol Capt. Dave Paris, Sanger Mayor Joshua D. Mitchell, chairwoman of the Greater Fresno Chamber of Commerce Lorraine Salazar, and president of the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce David Laurence Phillips.

“This new segment continues our eastward extension of the expressway to provide a faster, safer route for people commuting from eastern Fresno County, farmers hauling produce, and motorists visiting Kings Canyon and the Sequoia National Parks,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

The three-mile section just completed stretches from just east of Quality Avenue to just west of Smith Avenue near Centerville. This new expressway will facilitate improved traffic flow within this urban area and continues the extension eastward and serves as the gateway to Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Parks. State Route (SR) 180 not only links Fresno counties eastern communities and National Park areas with vital regional services, but also serves as the primary agricultural goods movement corridor for eastern Fresno County. This expressway is of growing importance for commuters from the surrounding rural areas and neighboring communities and will improve congestion along local streets, reduce travel time and increase motorist safety.

Caltrans began improving the Kings Canyon Expressway in 2009 when it widened six-miles of the route between Temperance Avenue and Academy Avenue. With completion of the second segment, nearly nine miles of the route have been upgraded. As funding becomes available, the final 4.5-mile segment from Smith Avenue to just east of Frankwood Avenue will be constructed, creating a total of 13.2 miles of new, four-lane expressway.

The price tag for the second segment was \$37.6 million, including \$11.5 million from Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved transportation bond. To date, more than \$18 billion in Proposition 1B funding has been put to work statewide for transportation purposes. State and local partnership programs and Measure “C”, a half-cent local sales tax dedicated for transportation, also contributed towards the overall cost of Segment Two.



## UPDATE ON FRESNO COUNTY PROJECTS

**SIGNAL COUNTDOWN/ ACCESSIBLE:** Install signal countdown heads/accessible pedestrian signs in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera and Tulare at various locations. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list February 2015. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

**Fre-Tul Sign Panel Upgrade:** Upgrade sign panels in Fresno County on Routes 41, 168, 180, and in Tulare County on Route 198. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list March 2015. Emad Abi-Rached, Project Manager, (559) 243-3460.

**HST - Bakersfield to Fresno Segment:** High Speed Train System from the City of Bakersfield to south of Clinton Avenue in the City of Fresno. Funding: HSRA (ARRA & BOND). Begin construction fall 2014; end construction summer 2018. Garth Fernandez, Project Manager, (559) 243-8012.

**Fre/Mad Wire Theft:** In Fresno and Madera Counties at various locations. Funding: SHOPP. Project awarded on 11/19/2013. Construction contract approved December 9, 2013; in construction; end construction summer 2015. Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559)243-3588.

**Fresno ITS Freeway Crossings:** City of Fresno will design and construct an Intelligent Trans-

portation System (ITS) project to help synchronize traffic signals along freeway crossings. Funding: Minor A, CMAQ. Ready to List summer 2015; advertise late 2015. Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559) 243-3588.

**Panoche Overlay:** Pavement Rehabilitation on I-5 from south of the Panoche Road overcrossing to north of the Russell Road overcrossing. Funding: SHOPP. Bids opened, waiting to award. Project will award and then go into winter suspension. Chris Gardner, Project Manager, (559) 243-3444.

**Jacalitos Creek Bridge:** Replace bridge on SR 33 near the City of Coalinga at Jacalitos Creek. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list achieved summer 2014; advertised September 2014; begin construction early 2015, depending on weather conditions; end construction spring 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

**Mendota Intersection Improvement:** Construct a roundabout in Fresno County in the City of Mendota, on SR 33 at SR 180. Funding: CMAQ and Measure C. Implementing Agency-City of Mendota. Ready to list summer 2015. Chris Gardner, Project Manager, (559) 243-3444.

**FRE 41 CAPM:** Pavement preservation on SR 41 north of the City of Lemoore from Harlan Avenue to Elkhorn Avenue. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list summer 2014; advertised September 2014; begin construction end of 2014, depending on weather conditions; complete construction early 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

**Ventura Viaduct Deck Seal:** On SR 41, near Fresno, 1.3 miles north of the SR 41/99 Separation. Funding: SHOPP. Bid opened October 15, 2014; will go into winter suspension; end construction late 2015. Chris Gardner, Project Manager, (559) 243-3444.

**180 Westbound Ramp Barrier:** Replace existing right side metal beam guard rail with concrete barrier on southbound SR 41 to the westbound SR 180 interchange ramp in the City of Fresno. Funding: SHOPP. In construction; complete construction spring 2015. Earle Jones, Project Manager, (559) 243-3471.

**Ramp Improvement at SR41 at various locations and at SR180:** Install concrete barriers on SR 41 and SR 180 at ramps at Abby Avenue, McKinley Avenue, Shields Avenue, Shaw Avenue, Herndon Avenue, and Friant Avenue in the

## UPDATE ON FRESNO COUNTY PROJECTS, CONTINUED

**City of Fresno.** Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list achieved January 30, 2014; advertise spring 2014; award contract summer 2014; begin construction late summer 2014; complete construction summer 2015. Judy Aguilar-Luna, Project Manager, (559) 243-3457.

**McKinley 41 NB Ramp Guardrail:** Replace MBGR with concrete guardrail on SR 41 northbound on-ramp from McKinley Avenue. Funding: Minor A. Ready to list early 2015; advertise spring 2015; begin construction summer 2015; end construction fall 2015. Chris Gardner, Project Manager, (559) 243-3444.

**Ramp Meter Replacement Planting:** Replacement planting on SR 41 between Ashlan Avenue overcrossing to Herndon Avenue undercrossing in the City of Fresno. Funding: SHOPP. In construction and on schedule; complete construction summer 2016. Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559) 243-3588.

**Olive Avenue Signals:** At SR 99/Olive on- and off-ramps in the City of Fresno; ramp metering included. Funding Minor A. CTC approved funding June 2010. Advertised fall 2014; complete construction early 2015. Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3451.

**SR 99 Realignment for HST:** Realignment of SR 99 to accommodate the High Speed Train System from south of Clinton Avenue in the City of Fresno to Ashlan Ave. Funding: HSRA (ARRA & BOND). Begin construction fall 2015. Garth Fernandez, Project Manager, (559) 243-8012.

**San Joaquin River 6-Lane:** Replace the SR 99/San Joaquin River Bridge and widen SR 99 from Grantland Avenue overcrossing in the City of Fresno to north of the Avenue 7 overcrossing in Madera County. Funding: Prop 1B Bond. In construction; construction complete summer 2016. The contractor has shifted traffic to the new southbound bridge and demolition of the old northbound bridge is complete. The new northbound bridge and roadwork south of the river continues. Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

**Veterans Blvd. Interchange:** New interchange on SR 99 between Herndon Avenue and Shaw Avenue on Veterans Boulevard in the City of Fresno. Funding: Measure, local. Project design progressing. Begin construction 2016 pending funding approval. Jim Bane (559) 243-3469.

**Kerman Roundabout SR 145/Jensen:** SR 145 at Jensen Avenue in the City of Ker-

man. Funding: SHOPP. Construction is complete; project will be in plant establishment until June 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

**Fre 168/180 Wire Theft:** In Fresno and Madera Counties at various locations. Funding: SHOPP. Project awarded on 11/19/2013. Construction contract approved December 9, 2013; in construction; end construction summer 2015. Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559) 243-3588.

**168 Median Barrier:** Construct median barrier on SR 168 in the City of Clovis between the Herndon Avenue undercrossing to the Clovis Avenue undercrossing. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list spring 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

**Prather Curve Correction:** Realign the curve on SR 168 and Auberry Road near the community of Prather. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list summer 2015; advertise fall 2015; will likely go into winter suspension with construction beginning spring of 2016; complete construction fall 2016. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

**Auberry Road Intersection:** Intersection improvements at the SR 168/Auberry Road intersection near the community

## UPDATE ON FRESNO COUNTY PROJECTS, CONTINUED

of Prather. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list fall 2015; advertise winter 2015; begin construction early 2016; complete construction early 2017. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

**Munger Point:** Enhance Maynard Munger vista point on SR 168 east of the community of Prather. Funding: STIP, TE. Project is being redesigned since the first advertisement. The project could not be awarded at that time as all bids were greater than the Caltrans cost for the project. Project is expected to be advertised again in May of 2015; construction to start summer 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

**180 West Freeway Landscape:** Highway planning on SR 180 in and near the City of Fresno from west of Brawley Avenue to Teilman Avenue. Funding: STIP. Ready to list summer 2015; end construction fall 2020. Chris Gardner, Project Manager, (559) 243-3444.

**180 Braided Ramps:** On SR 180 between SR 41 & SR 168 in the City of Fresno. Funding: SHOPP. Design-Build project was awarded and construction contract was approved January 2012. All ramps are now open in their final configuration. All field work is complete; waiting for contractor to submit final affidavit of comple-

tion. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

**180 Braided Ramps Landscaping Project:** Freeway landscaping in the City of Fresno from west of the Route 180S/Route 41 separation to east of the Peach Avenue overcrossing. Funding: Measure. Ready to list spring 2015; construction should begin early summer 2015. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

**180 Freeway Landscape:** Highway planting and install irrigation on SR 180 in the City of Fresno between west of Clovis Avenue overcrossing to east of Temperance Avenue. Funding: RIP. CTC approved funding March 2012. Contract approved in September 2012; in construction; end construction winter 2016. Due to drought conditions the planting phase scheduled to start in May has been delayed to January 2015. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

**Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 2:** SR 180 from Academy Avenue to Smith Road near the community of Centerville. Funding: Measure, Prop 1B Bond. Project was awarded April 23, 2013; construction began August 2013; construction complete October 2014. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

**Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 3:** SR 180 from Smith Rd. to Alta Main Canal near the community of Centerville. Funding: RIP, Measure. Ready to list early 2015; advertise summer 2015; award contract late summer 2015; begin construction fall 2015 (pending funding availability). In design phase. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

**Kings River Overflow Bridge Replacement:** Replace the Kings River overflow bridge on SR 180 northeast of the City of Sanger. Funding: SHOPP. Current construction contract will be terminated; bridge replacement work will be added to the Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 3 project. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

**Cali Aqueduct Deck Replacement:** Replace the California Aqueduct bridge deck on SR 198 near the City of Huron. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list late 2015; advertise early 2016; begin construction early 2016; complete construction spring 2016. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

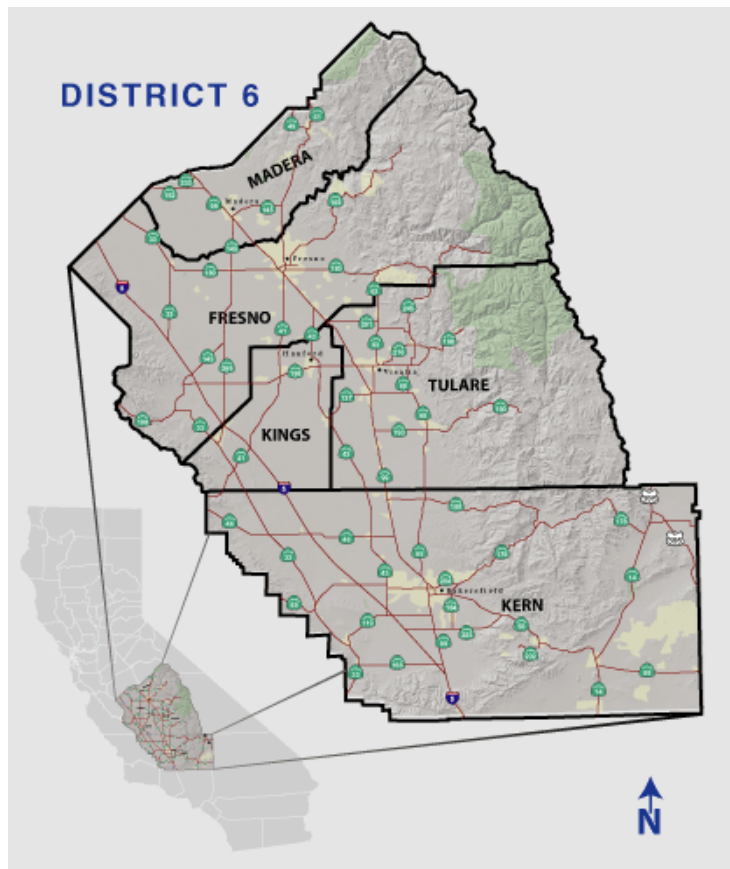




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*The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 6 is headquartered in Fresno. This geographically diverse district is the second largest of the 12 Districts statewide, stretching from the southernmost part of Yosemite National Park in the north to the Mojave Desert. It includes Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties. Interstate 5 and State Route 99 run the length of District 6, serving as the main north-south arteries for not just the Central Valley, but for the entire state as well.*



Visit District 6 on the web at [www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/)