



**2023-24**  
**Fresno COG One Voice Advocacy Trip**  
**To Washington, D.C.**

**Regional Priorities Submittal Form**

**Priority title:**

Raise Grant Application – South Fresno SR-99 Corridor Project

**Sponsoring agency/business:**

Fresno Council of Governments

**Contact name and information:**

Robert Phipps, interim executive director  
Fresno Council of Governments  
559-233-4148, ext. 210  
rhipps@fresnocog.org

**Keep your regional priority content to less than 2 pages long. Do not change the font (*Arial*).**

**Priority examples, for your reference, are available on Fresno COG's website here.**

**Priority title: RAISE Grant Application – South Fresno SR-99 Corridor Project**

**Provide a short introduction of the regional priority:**

Fresno Council of Governments and the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) formally request support for their joint RAISE grant application for the South Fresno State Route 99 Corridor Project. If funded, the project would replace a non-standard, split interchange at North/Cedar Avenue and a non-standard, half-interchange at American Avenue – just under three miles south of North/Cedar.

The project is intended to: replace two aged overcrossings, realign and widen ramps, eliminate isolated ramps, install signalized intersections, provide sidewalk and bicycle facilities, install a sound barrier to mitigate traffic noise, provide electric-vehicle (EV) charging stations, and replace/rehabilitate existing pavement. Furthermore, the project has the potential to: reduce lifecycle costs, improve safety, improve access to jobs, reduce congestion, improve goods movement and supply chains, and facilitate California High-Speed Rail (HSR) construction and operations.

**Request summary – provide specific priority “ask”:**

1. Congressional delegation support for the RAISE grant application already on file with the Department of Transportation.

**Request background – Include explanation of the regional significance:**

The North/Cedar and American Avenue interchanges are located along the State Route (SR) 99 trade corridor and are priority locations for reconstruction. Both North/Cedar and American Avenues serve as primary access points for existing and developing industrial and commercial businesses, which includes three major distribution centers for Amazon, Ulta Beauty, and Valley Wide Beverage. In addition to those three distribution centers, as well as hundreds of other industrial employers in south Fresno, this project will also serve the nearby Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) intermodal rail facility. Lastly, it would provide access to the proposed Fresno HSR Maintenance-of-Way/Heavy-Maintenance Facility site.

This project will reduce driver confusion at the North Avenue interchange by reconstructing interchanges to standard design. Improvements will include installing traffic signal controls at the ramp intersections, which should reduce overall collisions as much as 30 percent, with some reduction to collision severity. Left-turn phasing will also eliminate free movements, which reduces potential collisions with cyclists/pedestrians. The interchange ramps at Cedar Avenue are eliminated and consolidated at North Avenue. This removes the conflict points between vehicles and cyclists/pedestrians in which free movements currently exist.

The proposed improvements at the American Avenue interchange include roundabouts at the ramp intersections. The roundabouts have several added safety features, including reducing collision severity and providing for improved pedestrian crossings. Multi-use paths will run adjacent to the roundabouts, which will provide a safe route for both pedestrians and cyclists.

**If your priority is not transportation related, are there any transportation policy connections:**

**Are there any economic development benefits?**

Yes. Transportation infrastructure projects are generally considered to produce a multiplier effect of 3.4 in combined direct, indirect and induced output on a national basis. In addition, economic models demonstrate the interchanges, when complete, will save an estimated:

- \$155.4 million in accident costs;
- \$86.8 million in travel time;
- \$6.6 million in vehicle operations;
- \$1 million in emissions

This is in addition to producing an estimated 118 annual jobs totaling 353.3 job years and \$85 million in direct economic gains as a result of construction.

**Are there any high-resolution photos or other explanatory attachments?** If yes, please describe the attachments and include them with your submittal.

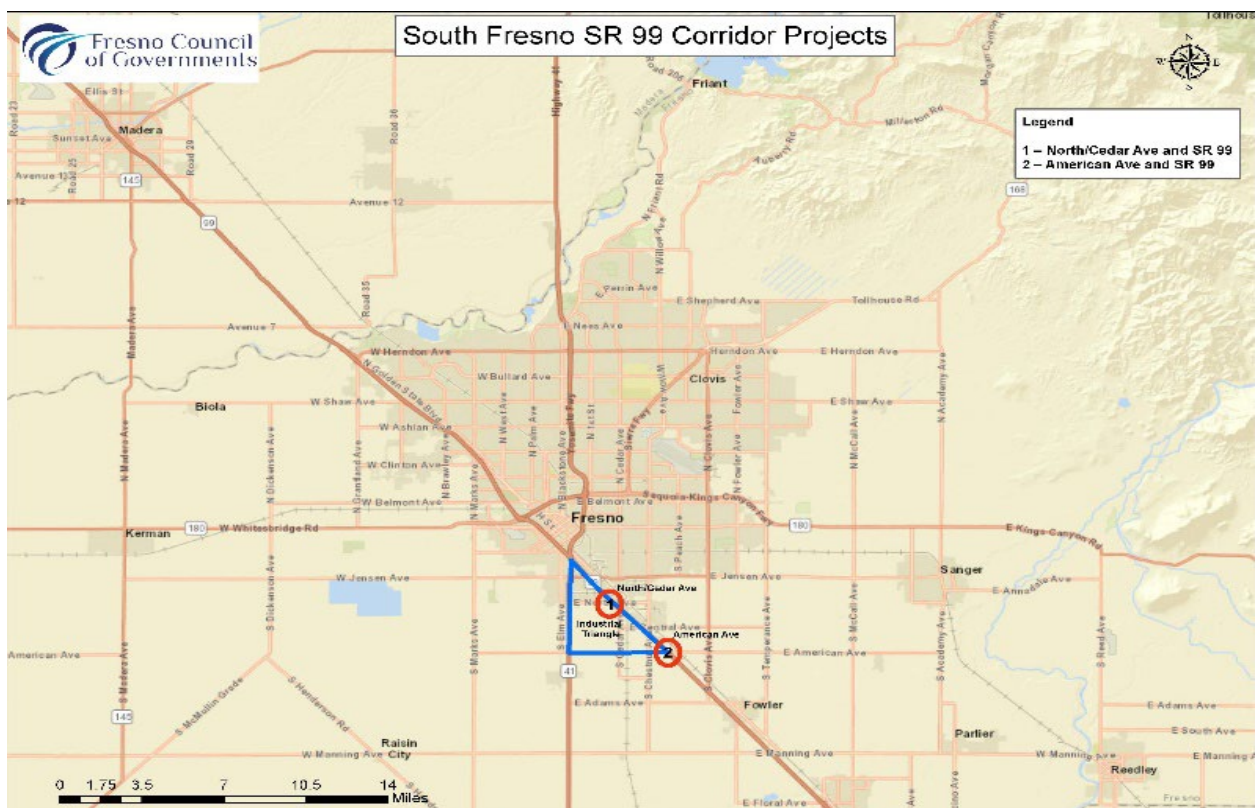


Figure 3: Project Location Map

**Contact** - Include your contact information **and** the contact information of the person that will be attending the One Voice trip to speak on behalf of your priority:

Project Submitter:

Robert Phipps, interim executive director  
Fresno Council of Governments  
rphipp@fresnocog.org  
O: 559-233-4148, ext. 210  
C: 661-205-1336  
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201

Fresno, CA 93721

One Voice Participant:

Alma Beltran,

Mayor, City of Parlier; Chairwoman, Fresno Council of Governments

[abeltran@parlier.ca.us](mailto:abeltran@parlier.ca.us)