



May 26, 2021

Fresno County Transportation Authority  
2220 Tulare St Suite 2101  
Fresno, CA 93721

SUPPORT: Amendment #6 Measure C Transportation Improvement Plan Expenditure Plan

Dear Board Members:

We would like to express our support for Amendment #6 - Measure C Transportation Improvement Plan Expenditure Plan. Adding local funds to this project will help ensure its successful completion.

Working in partnership with Caltrans, and with local funding from Measure C, 16 miles of the four-lane expressway was completed on SR 41 from south of Fresno to Elkhorn Ave., approximately six miles north of the Kings County line. Unfortunately, due to repeated funding shortfalls over the last 30 years, a six-mile section of this roadway remains incomplete.

Today, drivers go from two lanes in either direction with a wide center divider to one lane each way with double yellow lines. Since September of 2020, there have been five fatal accidents within this four-lane gap.

Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin has met repeatedly with local and state officials and has pledged his support for fixing these critical safety issues. As a result, Caltrans is working on an accelerated safety project to address these head-on accidents as a stop-gap measure. However, Director Omishakin has acknowledged that the barrier is a temporary fix that requires an ultimate safety solution. The goal must be to complete the four-lane expressway project for the entire 22 miles.

This effort is being driven by a great deal of community support. The community group "Widen Highway 41" has almost 6,000 Facebook fans. Organizers of this group have crowd-funded to produce several eight-foot tall signs, which they have installed on private property along the highway. The signs warn drivers not to pass and call for Caltrans to widen the roadway.

State Route 41 is a major recreational corridor that experiences high traffic volumes during holidays and weekends. It passes through prime agricultural area, providing farm to market goods movement and farmworker mobility. It also moves freight to and from the Central Coast, and is a primary access route to Lemoore Naval Air station, one of the largest air bases in California.

The completion of the Excelsior Expressway on SR 41 is long overdue. This is an incomplete section of state highway that has become very dangerous for drivers in our community. Too many lives have been lost. Making safety improvements to this roadway will save lives for decades to come.

Sincerely,



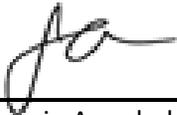
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Jim Patterson  
Assemblymember, 23<sup>rd</sup> District



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Melissa Hurtado  
Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District



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Dr. Joaquin Arambula  
Assemblymember, 31<sup>st</sup> District