



# 2024-25 Fresno COG One Voice Advocacy Trip

## Regional Priorities Submittal Form

**Submittal Deadline: Jan. 6, 2025**

**Keep your regional priority content to less than three pages long. Do not change the font (*Arial*). Contact Brenda Thomas at [bthomas@fresnocog](mailto:bthomas@fresnocog) with questions.**

**One Voice Proposed Priority title:**

Shaw Avenue/State Route 99 Interchange Modernization Project

**Sponsoring agency/business:**

City of Fresno

**1. Request summary – provide specific priority “ask(s)”:**

Increase federal funding to support this transformational, large-scale transportation infrastructure project by at least \$19M needed for next steps in increasing our local and regional economic diversity and vitality in this area with these subsequent phases:

- Initiate the necessary Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Commence field survey activities
- Preliminary design and right-of-way (ROW) acquisition

**2. About the Priority:** (Provide specific information about your proposed priority. Include information you want included in the trip materials.)

Fresno is home to over 546,000 residents, the 5th largest city in California and we are determined to move to the next stage to improve the connectivity and cohesion for residences of the rural communities on the west side of State Route 99 (SR99) by modernizing the Shaw Avenue/SR99 interchange, which serves as a major thoroughfare into the heart of Fresno. .

As one of the main gateways to the west side of the City of Fresno, the interchange has been plagued by traffic congestion delaying commuters, extending emergency vehicle response times, and the interchange lacks active transportation infrastructure; effectively cutting off residents who do not own vehicles.

Modernization of the Shaw Avenue/SR99 interchange would address safety concerns, geometric deficiencies, pedestrian and bicycle access, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint curb ramps, sidewalk gap infills, street lighting, transit expansion, congestion, and future operational needs to accommodate the City's planned growth.

Safety is the central theme of all public infrastructure within the City of Fresno. The Project location provides direct access to a multitude of businesses, shopping options, neighborhoods and California State University, Fresno. It is also a major truck route: the delivery of goods and services relies on safe and timely deliveries for the hundreds of businesses on Shaw Avenue. The circulation of traffic is essential to a bustling and thriving community and the wellbeing of its constituents. However, high traffic volumes inevitably lead to safety concerns for all modes of travel but particularly with pedestrians and bicyclists, which has historically been a high concern.

Specific safety challenges within the Project location:

- Shaw Avenue is deteriorating as a result of heavy traffic, congestion, and queuing
- Shaw Avenue and SR99 lane configurations are not perpendicular, with a 40-degree skew creating flawed sight lines for all modal users
- Sidewalks are inconsistent and not ADA compliant
- Lack of sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and lighting

Modernization of the interchange would not only improve the resident quality of life, but by connecting the user to the commodity whether it be to work, school, medical or goods whether they can afford auto transportation or not would serve all residents and help households thrive while supporting their families, without the cost, accessibility, and quality of life burdens auto-centric transportation has placed on them. Expanding active transportation infrastructure improves public health while reducing GHG, residents will see an uptick in their quality of life.

Measures of Air Quality in Fresno indicate some of the highest rates of lung-damaging particulates in the state. The average concentration of PM 2.5 particulate matter, the type of pollution that travels deep into the lungs, is higher in Fresno than in 85% of other cities statewide (Figure 9). Poor air quality exacerbates health conditions like asthma and cardiovascular disease. Both conditions are highly prevalent in Fresno. It is estimated that 85% of residents have asthma, and 62% have heart disease. The prevalence of these health conditions is higher than recorded rates in 75% of California cities placing Fresno in the bottom quartile for health indicators statewide ([California Healthy Places Index](#)). Economic indicators are also troublesome. The median household income in the City of Fresno is \$57,211, which is 24% below national levels (\$74,580) and 32% less than the median household income statewide (\$85,300).

3. **Priority background** – (Include the priority issues, history and an explanation of the regional significance if not provided in question 1)

State Route 99 is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System stretching almost the entire length of the San Joaquin Valley. It is one of the most significant regional and goods transportation corridors in California. It provides a north/south

connection to cities and communities in the San Joaquin Valley and to the rest of the state.

The Shaw Avenue/SR99 interchange was constructed in 1960 when the population of the City of Fresno was approximately 133,000. The population grew four-fold to a census-estimated 2020 population of 546,000. The interchange has since become an integral part of the transportation network with Shaw Avenue serving as a major east-west arterial extending from the western end of Fresno to the neighboring City of Clovis to the east. While the freeway has been improved to six lanes, the 1960 interchange has not been modernized. Traffic operational analysis conducted in 2021 shows that the Shaw Avenue/SR99 Interchange south and northbound ramp intersections will operate unacceptably at level of service E and F (control delays in excess of 55 seconds) by 2035 with long delays for both the AM and PM peak hours.

The Fresno Council of Governments forecasts that the Fresno Sphere of Influence population will continue to grow to 904,000 in 2050. The City of Fresno population growth will increase the traffic demands on the interchange and further increase congestion within and nearby the interchange as well safety concerns.

**4. If your priority is not transportation related, are there any transportation policy connections?**

N/A

**5. Provide high-resolution photos, graphics or other explanatory attachments for the One Voice trip materials. Do not copy and paste them here, attach them as separate electronic files. Then, describe the attachments and include them with your submittal.**

Yes, find photo pages and a video attached showing the existing conditions at and near the Shaw Avenue/SR99 Intersection Improvement Project.

**6. Contact** – Include the contact information for the priority submittal **and** the contact information of the person that will be attending the One Voice trip to speak on behalf of the priority:

**Project Contact:**

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**One Voice Participant:**

TBD