

T 15

California Legislature



STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

January 24, 2012

California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Frommer and Commissioners:

We are writing to reaffirm our very strong support for the I-5 Corridor Improvement Project (I-5 CIP), which consists of the much needed and long awaited widening of the Interstate 5 Freeway from the Orange County border to the I-605 freeway. As you know, this has been a high priority project for the constituents in all of our communities for more than two decades.

The diligent efforts of the cities and communities, and their leaders, along this segment of the I-5, resulted in your approval of nearly \$400 million of Proposition 1B, CMIA, bond funds. Further, your Commission approved state funding this past year to begin construction work on early projects related to the I-5 CIP, specifically, the Carmenita Ave. Interchange and the widening and realignment of I-5 in Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs.

We are aware that there has been a sense of urgency raised over the past several months by members of the California Transportation Commission regarding the strict timelines to have the remaining elements of this project awarded and under construction by the end of this year. Our local city and congressional representatives have been in contact with Caltrans management and noted the significant progress in the past few months. Caltrans leadership has given their assurances they can meet the CMIA timelines.

Further, we are in strong support of the Commission's efforts to ensure Caltrans expedites this project as its highest priority and agree it is critical this project meet its timelines to ensure the use of the allocated CMIA funds in a timely manner. We are aware of the Commission's ongoing evaluation of alternative funding allocations because of concern over whether Caltrans can meet these timelines. We are convinced that the I-5 freeway widening through the southeast Los Angeles corridor has the full support and attention of every elected Councilmember, State Legislative representative and Congressional Representative in the I-5 CIP Corridor and we will all work to ensure timely implementation. We have come too far over too long a period to allow any further delay.