

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC

March 22, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Stanislaus County Department of Public Works TIGER IV Grant Application for Claribel Road Widening Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I would like to express my support for Stanislaus County Department of Public Works' application for a TIGER IV Grant to fund the proposed Claribel Road Widening Project. This project entails reconstruction of 2.1 miles of Claribel Road to widen the road from a two-lane configuration to a four-lane configuration. This project is critical to increase safety, relieve congestion, and enhance travel efficiency on this major thoroughfare. This project will benefit the operational capacity of Claribel Road and the surrounding road network.

The Claribel Road Widening Project is needed to manage growth in the region. It will promote multimodal transportation uses with the implementation of a new bus route and Class 1 bicycle lanes, as well as increased goods movement between newly established commercial and industrial centers within the region. The project will manage existing operational deficiencies by providing additional capacity that will accommodate growth forecasts, including traffic projections from future development.

Stanislaus County Department of Public Works proposes to improve 2.1 miles of Claribel Road between Oakdale Road and McHenry Avenue (SR 108) to better accommodate existing and projected vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic anticipated from implementation of planned housing and business development in the cities of Salida, Riverbank, Modesto, and Oakdale. The current two lane configuration with a four-way stop at Coffee Road will be widened to a four-lane facility with a center median and 10-foot shoulder including Class 1 bicycle lanes and a traffic signal at the Claribel/Coffee Intersection. This project will also widen a canal bridge. The bridge design incorporates drainage swales and best management practices to manage storm water runoff and improve water quality.

In addition to improving road safety and efficiency, the new configuration will allow for implementation of a new bus route that will provide service to over 8,855 residents in the

planning area. Construction of the new configuration will also help reduce future maintenance costs and air pollution by improving the flow of traffic along the corridor, which is located in an area with some of the worst air pollution in California. The project will also create near-term jobs in a region that suffers from unemployment rates nearly double the national average.

I ask that you give full consideration to Stanislaus County Department of Public Works' TIGER IV Grant application to complete the Claribel Road Widening Project. The project will bring much needed practical improvements to an important road in Stanislaus County, and will also promote economic growth in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEFF DENHAM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JEFF DENHAM
United States Representative