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City Manager*

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*Hearing and Speech  
Impaired Only  
TDD 209/526-9211*

March 5, 2012

Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Stanislaus County Claribel Road Widening Project**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The City of Modesto is pleased to provide our support for the Claribel Road Widening Project in Stanislaus County. This exceptional and regionally significant project is under consideration for TIGER IV program funding. The project is within the City's sphere of influence. The City of Modesto recognizes that San Joaquin Valley is an important contributor of agricultural goods and products to the nation, and global economy. Long-term economic stability is highly dependent on a road, rail and port transportation network that promotes efficient goods movement. The Claribel Road Widening Project is an important component of that network system.

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

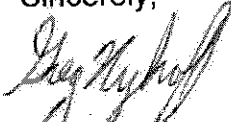
Stanislaus County proposes to improve 2.1 miles of Claribel Road between Oakdale Road and McHenry Avenue (SR 108) to better accommodate existing and projected vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic anticipated from implementation of planned housing and business development in the Salida Community, the Cities of 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, 10-foot shoulders that will include Class 1 Bike Lanes and a signal at the Claribel/Coffee intersection. The project will also widen a canal bridge.

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The design incorporates drainage swales and best management practices to manage storm water runoff and improve water quality. The new configuration will allow for implementation of a new bus route that will provide service to over 8,855 residents in the Riverbank area, many of whom are commuting to Modesto for jobs or services.

Thank you for allowing us to provide our input and support for the TIGER IV program. The program has been a tremendous success and we welcome your continued commitment to the San Joaquin Valley. Should you need any additional information, please contact me at (209) 577-5224.

Sincerely,



Greg Nyhoff  
City Manager

cc: Modesto City Council  
Monica Nino, Chief Executive Officer, Stanislaus County  
Matt Machado, Director of Public Works, Stanislaus County  
Brent Sinclair, Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Modesto  
Bill Sandhu, Senior Civil Engineer, City of Modesto