



COAST VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

March 12, 2021

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support of Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for completion of the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor Project.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Coast Village Association endeavors to improve the welfare of Santa Barbara's Coast Village Road community of merchants, property owners and residents. It is critical to the welfare of our community that phases 4D and 4E of the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project receive full funding.

Currently, the bottleneck on the southbound freeway as the three lanes are reduced to two at the Olive Mill exit has created a long back-up of traffic on 101 during weekday rush hours and weekends. This has resulted in traffic, aided by apps like WAZE, jumping off 101 at the Cabrillo/Hot Springs exit and using Coast Village Road and surrounding Montecito streets to bypass the bottleneck. The increased congestion on Coast Village Road is creating significant economic harm to businesses and property owners as it discourages customers from visiting the Road. The surrounding residential neighborhoods are also seeing substantial increases in congestion and face safety issues as cars and trucks look for alternatives to staying on 101 when headed for points south. In addition, with the removal of the southbound on-ramp at Cabrillo/Hot Springs in 2009, traffic from the beach area and eastern parts of Santa Barbara also has to use Coast Village Road and surrounding streets to access entrances further south thus adding to the congestion problem. It is critical to the financial health and safety of our community that the 101 project be fully funded to create a new third lane to eliminate the bottleneck and construct a new southbound on-ramp at Cabrillo/Hot Springs.

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This project is not only important to our community but is also a critical link for the transportation of goods and the travel of employees, safety professionals and tourists between the Los Angeles basin and the Bay Area. 101 is the only major highway connecting the Central Coast to northern and southern California and when Highway 5 closes due to winter storms over the 'Grapevine', the cars and trucks normally travelling on that highway use the 101 instead. With this massive increase in traffic, it can take hours just to travel the ten miles between Santa Barbara and Carpinteria because of the two-lane bottleneck.

The Coast Village Association urges you to support SBCAG's application for funding the next phases of the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project as its completion is critical to the financial health and safety of our community and the Central Coast region.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Ludwick
President, Coast Village Association