

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

October 10, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is pleased to be a co-applicant with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to the United States Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery 2017 (TIGER 2017) competitive grant program for the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities Project (Project).

The U.S. 101 freeway is the only major highway connecting the central coast to both northern and southern California. The U.S. 101 and Interstate (I) 5 are the only two north-south interregional highways between Los Angeles and San Francisco. When I-5 is closed due to weather conditions, traffic accidents, or other hazards, U.S. 101 absorbs the excess traffic and freight movement.

The U.S. 101 corridor currently operates with Level of Service F congested flow conditions for two to four hours daily. Congestion is estimated to increase to over ten hours per day by 2040. The corridor provides access from California's Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country. The Project will increase capacity and reduce congestion on U.S. 101, improve interregional goods movement, increase safety and multi-modal access, and create access to jobs. It will help protect the economic viability, quality of life, and environmental sustainability of the entire region by reducing travel delays, improving goods movement, and providing employees with new multi-modal commute options.

Caltrans strongly supports SBCAG's effort to widen the U.S. 101 freeway, and encourage your support in funding this application for \$25 million in TIGER 2017 grant funding.

Sincerely,

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY  
Director