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# Assembly California Legislature



**MONIQUE LIMÓN**  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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October 13, 2017

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

**Re: Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Application for the Department of Transportation TIGER XI Grant**

Dear Secretary Chao,

As the Assemblymember for the 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of California, which encompasses much of Santa Barbara County, I support the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' application to the United States Department of Transportation's Transportation Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 2017) grant program for the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities project.

This project will provide multiple transportation improvements including the addition of a High Occupancy Vehicle Lane, new commuter rail service, intercity transit service, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The U.S. 101 is the only major highway connecting the central coast to both northern and southern California and it is estimated that the county population will grow from 432,895 to 507,000 people by 2035; it is critical that these transportation infrastructure improvements occur in a timely manner. Santa Barbara County has key trading partners in both Northern and Southern California, and serves as a critical link for interregional goods movement. The corridor provides access from California's Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country.

This corridor currently operates with LOS F congested flow conditions for two to four hours daily and congestion is estimated to increase over ten hours per day by 2040. U.S. 101 and Interstate 5 are the only two north-south interregional highways between Los Angeles and San Francisco. When Interstate 5 is closed, U.S. 101 absorbs the excess volume of traffic and freight movement. The significant increase in traffic delays causes Santa Barbara traffic to flow onto the busy surface streets.

The project will increase capacity and reduce congestion on US 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. I respectfully request full and fair consideration for this important project. Should you have any questions you may contact Samantha Omana in my Santa Barbara office at 805-564-1649 or via email at [Samantha.Omana@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Samantha.Omana@asm.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**Monique Limón**  
Assemblymember, 37<sup>th</sup> District