



CITY OF CLOVIS

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(559) 324-2010

December 15, 2005

Mr. John Barna
Deputy Secretary for Transportation
California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Barna,

Letter of Support – Implementation Of The Highway 99 Business Plan

On behalf of the **Fresno County Transportation Authority**, I would like to express my support of the Highway 99 Business Plan; a plan that outlines the expansion of Highway 99 to improve safety and capacity for both passenger and truck travel in the San Joaquin Valley.

As you are aware, there is language in the Federal Transportation Bill that includes Highway 99 as a "high priority corridor". However, the three Highway 99 projects earmarked to receive funds, under the Goods Movement Plan, are insufficient and do not meet the commercial traffic demands of today. Keep in mind Highway 99 carries more than 27% of the truck traffic as compared to a 9% average for the entire State. Yet, it is the only corridor in California where urbanized centers are not connected by a freeway.

The California Department of Transportation estimates it will take at least \$6 billion dollars, in today's dollar, to address at a minimum the additional lanes and elimination of at-grade entrances on Highway 99 between Stockton and Bakersfield. With the potential for so much growth in the San Joaquin Valley over the next 20 years, these types of improvements only serve to temporarily mitigate our issue at hand, without any consideration for future development along the corridor (i.e. distribution centers, light industry, and population growth).

Without commensurate investment to handle the increased truck traffic we will see in the near future, Highway 99 will undoubtedly reach a level of failure. Highway 99 is considered the transportation backbone of the San Joaquin Valley. A meaningful business plan will not only help improve and expand Highway 99, it is also viewed as the economic engine to quality employment and economic vitality for the San Joaquin Valley.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to accelerate the implementation of the Highway 99 Business Plan for the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,

Harry Armstrong
Clovis City Council Member
Chairman of the Fresno County Transportation Authority

c. Juan Arambula-Assemblymember, AD 31
2550 Mariposa Mall, #5031, Fresno, CA 93721

Mike Villines-Assemblymember, AD 29
6245 N. Fresno St. #106, Fresno, CA 93710

Dave Cogdill-Assemblymember, AD 25
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