

Farmland Working Group

STRIVING TO PROTECT FOOD, FAMILIES AND FARMLAND

March 12, 2012

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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:

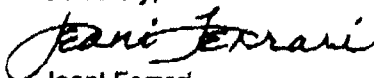
The Farmland Working Group is pleased to provide our support for the Claribel Road Widening Project in Stanislaus County. This exceptional and regionally significant project is under consideration for TIGER IV program funding. We recognize that San Joaquin Valley is an important contributor of agricultural 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 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. 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 planning area.

Thank you for allowing us to provide our input and support to the TIGER IV program. The program has been a tremendous success and we welcome your continued commitment to the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,



Jeani Ferrari,
Secretary