



City of Riverbank Development Services Department

Public Works ≈ Planning ≈ Building ≈ Neighborhood Improvement

6707 Third Street, Riverbank, CA 95367 Office (209) 863-7120 FAX (209) 869-7126

March 7, 2012

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 City of Riverbank wholeheartedly supports the Claribel Road Widening Project in Stanislaus County. This exceptional and regionally significant project is under consideration for TIGER IV program funding. Riverbank is in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley that is a vital producer of agricultural goods and products to the nation, and global economy. Our prosperity and 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 a multi-faceted project accomplishing many of our residents and businesses needs. The project is needed to manage the impacts of job creation via industrial and commercial growth in Riverbank. With an unemployment rate hovering around 20%, supporting job creating activities is of vital importance to Riverbank. The project will facilitate goods movement between newly established regional commercial and industrial center at the former Riverbank Army Ammunitions Plant that was on the 2005 BRAC closure list. The widening of Claribel Road will help reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled in Riverbank by allowing a new bus route to be possible and constructing Class 1 bicycle lanes. The project is needed to manage existing operational deficiencies by providing additional capacity that will accommodate growth forecasts, including new jobs and traffic projections.

In this great endeavor, 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. During peak hour traffic, the current 4 way stop operates at Level of Service "F" with exaggerated auto emissions created by idling motors. The Claribel Road widening project will help protect Riverbank's air quality.

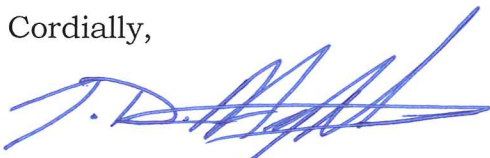
The project will also widen a canal bridge. The design incorporates drainage swales and best management practices to manage storm water runoff and improve water quality. This is of vital importance to us as the Stanislaus River is our namesake and protecting the resources thereof is an overarching goal of Riverbank.

The new configuration will allow for implementation of a new bus route that will provide service to over 8,855 residents in the Riverbank area. Providing affordable transportation to our residents so that they can get to new jobs is the most pressing need of Riverbank's workforce.

The project will also benefit the residents of Riverbank by lending to economic stability through transportation support of the reuse plan for the Riverbank Army Ammunitions Plant (RBAAP) Project, which was selected for closure in 2005. The reuse of the RBAAP provides an excellent opportunity for the City of Riverbank to enhance its economic base and create a unique industrial park. The Claribel Widening Project will help provide for transportation infrastructure that is imperative for the success of the RBAAP.

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. Should you need any additional information, please contact me at (209) 863-7124.

Cordially,



J.D. Hightower
Development Services Director