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February 25, 2016

Mr. Will Kempton, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
Attention: Ms. Laurel Janssen
Mail Station 52
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Bruce De Terra, Chief
Division of Transportation Programming
Attention: Mr. Kurt Scherzinger
Office of STIP
Department of Transportation
Mail Station 82
P.O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Subject: Revised Butte County 2016 RTIP Submittal

Ms. Janssen, Mr. Scherzinger:

Enclosed for your consideration is the Butte County Association of Governments' (BCAG) Revised 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The BCAG Board of Directors is scheduled to adopt this RTIP at their March 24, 2016 Board meeting.

The attached 2016 RTIP summary reflects a local, regional, and state commitment to deliver practical and needed projects in Butte County which address safety and economic goods movement. One State Route 70 project is proposed; one local bridge project and regional PPM funds. All projects are existing carryover projects from the 2014 STIP Cycle without change in total funding.

The State Route 70 Corridor continues to be BCAG's top priority for the region. The urbanized area of Chico is the largest urbanized area in the state not yet served by a continuous four lane facility. The SR 70 "Segment 1" project would construct our next passing lane project from Ophir Rd to Palermo Rd near the city of Oroville. BCAG is currently utilizing its federal demonstration funds to develop the environmental component for both Segment 1 and Segment 2. Segment 2 has been deleted from this RTIP.

The Midway at Butte Creek Bridge project leverages \$1.499 in STIP funds for \$13.991 in federal Highway Bridge Program funds.

BCAG 2016 RTIP Summary

AGENCY	RIP PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS	FUNDING RECOMMENDATION
BCAG/Caltrans	SR 70 Passing Lanes – Segment 1	\$ 11,400,000
Butte County	Midway over Butte Creek Bridge	\$ 1,499,000
BCAG	Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM)	\$ 202,000
	TOTAL 2016 RTIP RECOMMENDATIONS	\$ 13,101,000

BCAG’s Reduction Target and Revision Summary

BCAG has been provided a target to reduce its RTIP by \$3.9 million. To work towards this target BCAG has eliminated the SR 70 “Segment 2 project” for \$1.5 million in RIP and \$1.5 million in IIP funds. In addition, BCAG has proposed to reduce the RIP contribution on the SR 70 “Segment 1” project by \$1.7 million for a combined **reduction of \$3.2 million.**

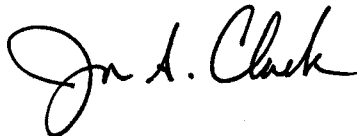
BCAG is currently working with FHWA and its federal lobbyist to transfer an old unusable SR 70 at Georgia Pacific Way Earmark (TEA-21) for \$1.7 million to the SR 70 Segment 1 project located about 1 mile away. FHWA has indicated that this transfer of funds should be allowed under the new surface transportation bill (FAST Act) however, the regional office is still waiting for guidance from U.S. Department of Transportation.

BCAG has always maintained an unprogrammed regional share balance to “build up” funds and partner with Caltrans District 03 delivering projects together and working off each other’s strengths over the past 23 years. BCAG has been very successful in securing congressional earmarks for the state-highway system over the years. In fact, earmark funds are currently being used to complete the environmental components for both Segment 1 and 2. The lack of a basic continuous 4 lane trunk system to serve California largest urbanized area has serious economic and safety concerns. We recognize tough decisions need to be made and simply request these factors be considered.

This document has been posted on BCAG's website at <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/RTIP/index.html> should additional copies be necessary. In addition, staff has emailed all RTIP electronic files including the Project Programming Request (PPR) data sheets to Caltrans HQ staff.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Mr. Iván García of my staff at 530-879-2468. We look forward to a continued partnership with the Commission and Caltrans.

Sincerely,



Jon A. Clark
Executive Director

Attachments:

- (2) Butte County 2016 RTIP Documents – CTC
- (2) Butte County 2016 RTIP Documents – Office of STIP

Butte County 2016 RTIP Distribution:

- (2) Caltrans District 3, Mr. Amarjeet Benipal