

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2017

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

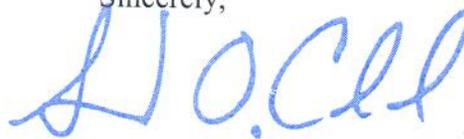
Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the continued efforts of the Kern Council of Governments, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to secure funding through the federal TIGER and INFRA grant programs to convert State Route (SR) 46, between US 101 in San Luis Obispo County and Interstate 5 in Kern County, from a rural two-lane conventional highway to a four-lane expressway. The project will ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods along the SR 46 Corridor; a major distribution point.

The proposed project provides multiple benefits: improving safety, relieving congestion, providing passing opportunities, and facilitating goods movement and recreational travel. The U.S. Department of Defense, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has also identified SR 46 East as a Strategic Highway Corridor Network (STRAHNET) route. STRAHNET is a network of linked highways deemed essential to national defense for facilitating the movement of troops and equipment to airports, ports, rail lines and military bases. This investment helps complete the final portion of the overall corridor improvement project by constructing a grade separated interchange at the SR 41/46 junction.

Again, I fully support SLOCOG's funding request for both a TIGER and INFRA grant, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations. These grants will provide the necessary resources to break ground on the next critical segment by 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress