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PRESS RELEASE

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State Route 132 West Project Groundbreaking

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Modesto, CA) – The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County, broke ground today on the State Route (SR) 132 West Project in Modesto. A ceremonial groundbreaking was held to commemorate the momentous occasion.

Terry Withrow, Stanislaus County Supervisor and Vice-Chair of the StanCOG Policy Board said, “It is an exciting day in Stanislaus County for this long-awaited project to begin so that the safety and efficiency of State Route 132 is improved for our residents.”

The State Route 132 West Project consists of constructing an ultimate four-lane freeway/expressway along the adopted route for SR 132 from Dakota Avenue to SR 99 in the city of Modesto. The project is intended to improve regional and interregional circulation, relieve traffic congestion along existing SR 132 (Maze Boulevard), and improve operations.

The project will be built in two phases. Phase 1, beginning now, will construct the first two lanes of the ultimate four-lane facility, resulting in a two-lane expressway with full access control and grade separations at intersections between SR 99 and SR 132 at North Dakota Avenue.

Phase 2, slated for completion in 2028, will include the construction of a four-lane freeway from North Dakota Avenue to SR 99, including the proposed SR 132/Carpenter Road interchange, the proposed SR99/SR 132 freeway to freeway interchange, and the SR 99 corridor connectivity improvements.

“The StanCOG Policy Board established the SR 132 West Project as the agency’s top regional priority transportation project and has worked extremely diligently to secure the federal, state and local funds necessary to see the project get off the ground,” StanCOG Executive Director Rosa De León Park stated.

Federal funding for the initial planning stages of the project was secured by former Congressman Dennis Cardoza in the 2005 federal transportation bill. In 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the project with a \$9 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant, the only TIGER grant awarded in California that year.

The TIGER grant was made possible due to the leveraging of a portion of funding from Measure L, the local Transportation Ordinance and Expenditure Plan that Stanislaus County voters approved in November 2016. The measure raised the sales tax in Stanislaus County on April 1, 2017, by one-half cent for a period of 25 years to improve local streets and roads, improve connectivity, and reduce congestion.

State funding is also contributing to the SR 132 project from Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

“It was a coordinated effort from all 10 of our local jurisdictions,” said Bill Zoslocki, who participated in many meetings along with other local delegates to Washington, DC and Sacramento to advocate on behalf of the Stanislaus region’s transportation needs. “Look at what we can achieve when we all work together,” he added.

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About StanCOG

The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as designated by the federal government, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) as designated by the State of California, and the Local Transportation Authority (LTA) which administers the local Measure L sales tax dedicated to transportation improvements in the Stanislaus region. StanCOG is a council of city and county governments comprised of the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford, and Stanislaus County, that was established in 1971 to address regional transportation issues. StanCOG provides the forum that brings local mayors, city council members and county supervisors together to work on regional transportation issues in a setting that promotes the involvement of the public in the planning process for the Stanislaus region.