

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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January 26, 2010

Ms. Bimla Rhinehart  
Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Room 2221  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Extending the El Dorado County US 50 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Project Utilizing Project Savings

Dear Commissioners,

The Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado supports the request of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) to use \$3.5 million in Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) project savings, combined with \$2.5 million in local funds, to extend the El Dorado US 50 HOV lane project. Under the current project the eastbound HOV lane will be paved to Post Mile (PM) 2.9, but striping of the HOV lane will be terminated at PM 2.0 due to traffic merge safety considerations, leaving nearly one mile of pavement placed but not utilized by the public. The proposed project will stripe the eastbound HOV lane from PM 2.0 to 2.9 and extend the end of eastbound HOV lane transition from PM 2.9 to approximately PM 3.7 prior to merging the lane near PM 4.4. As a result, the full length of the originally scoped HOV lanes will be striped and put into service, achieving the original project goals and providing the public with the full benefit of the pavement currently being placed.

The proposed project extension will augment the current project's regional benefits that include eliminating an estimated 837,000 million annual vehicle hours of delay and alleviating congestion pressure from the increasing travel demands associated with economic and residential growth in the corridor. The proposed project extension will also support a successful transit commuter service, as the existing El Dorado Transit commuter routes experience a 15-minute decrease in commute time on the existing HOV lanes from El Dorado Hills into Sacramento County, all while achieving a tremendous 75% fare-box recovery.

Allowing EDCTC to utilize the \$3.5 million in CMIA project savings will assist El Dorado County's efforts to financially support the development of infrastructure to accompany regional and interregional growth, as demonstrated by EDCTC's contribution of \$14.5 million for HOV lane improvements in Sacramento County, as well as the contribution of \$22.7 million in local traffic impact fees for the El Dorado County segment currently under construction. Extending the current project to PM 4.4 will complete the first major phase of the US 50 HOV lane network in El Dorado County, which is ultimately planned to extend east of the Shingle Springs area for a total of 23 miles of continuous HOV lanes while providing connectivity between the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and the Lake Tahoe recreational area.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Norma Santiago, Chairman  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors