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California Transportation Commission Announces Staff Recommendations for Investing \$1.7 Billion in Transportation Infrastructure Projects

SACRAMENTO – The California Transportation Commission today announced staff recommendations for the third funding cycle of programs established by Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. The recommendations would invest \$1.7 billion in projects with total costs of \$7.5 billion, leveraging over four dollars for every Senate Bill 1 dollar spent. The recommended projects will enable Californians to get to work, to school, and to recreational activities more easily and safely, while reducing congestion and improving the efficient delivery of goods, and creating nearly 100,000 jobs in the state.

"I am pleased to see the recommended projects demonstrate our continued commitment to the promises made to the residents of California under Senate Bill 1," said Commission Interim Executive Director Tanisha Taylor. "These critical investments across the state will make our transportation system safer and more economically competitive, while also supporting California's fight against climate change."

The Cycle 3 recommendations cover three competitive grant programs: the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and the Local Partnership Competitive Program. The recommended projects reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, foster economic growth, and make California's transportation system more equitable by delivering new mobility options to underserved communities.

For the first time in the Senate Bill 1 Programs, the Commission's recently formed Interagency Equity Advisory Committee participated in the evaluation of projects, helping to ensure that funding decisions provide more equitable outcomes. Cycle 3 is also the first program cycle to incorporate all principles of the state's <u>Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure</u>, with an updated project selection process that supports the state's climate, public health, safety, equity and economic goals.

The Commission will consider approval of the staff recommendations at its June 28-29, 2023, meeting. Summaries of the recommendations for each program can be found below:

Solutions for Congested Corridors Program

- \$507.4 million for 10 projects, with total project costs of \$3.2 billion.
- Heavy focus on multimodal solutions to increase bus service, walking, and biking.

- Projects informed by grassroots, nonprofit-led community engagement efforts which help ensure equitable, dynamic, community-oriented transportation networks.
- Emphasis on climate adaptive and resilient design to make facilities less vulnerable to extreme weather events.
- Includes new zero-emission transit infrastructure and measures to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Invests in networks of safe and accessible bicycle and pedestrian facilities and infrastructure.
- Constructs wildlife crossings to protect animals and motorists in rural areas.

Trade Corridor Enhancement Program

- \$1.081 billion for 26 projects, with total project costs of \$3.8 billion.
- Builds highway and operational improvements that support a safer, more efficient, and more environmentally friendly flow of goods.
- For the first time in this program, includes more than \$100 million for zero-emission freight infrastructure to build refueling and recharging facilities along key freight corridors.
- Constructs a new international border crossing and new commercial vehicle enforcement facility, enabling the reliable and safe movement of essential goods while creating a state-of-the-art screening process to reduce congestion and greatly enhance security at the border.
- Funds more than \$150 million in vital rail infrastructure and new rail track, including at seaports, ensuring that goods have a myriad of means to be safely transported through the state.
- Improves operational efficiency and travel time, enhances the safe movement of goods, and improves air quality by increasing truck throughput and rail volume.

Local Partnership Competitive Program

- \$142.4 million for 11 projects, with total project costs of \$610.3 million. Funding in this program rewards agencies that have elected to tax or impose fees within their regions.
- Large emphasis on transit improvements that will provide new and enhanced transit stations, build electric bus charging infrastructure, and expand the state's transit network.
- Promotes safe and efficient traffic operations by reconstructing an interchange and overcrossing; adding a safer rail crossing; implementing modernized traffic management systems; and building complete streets elements that create a safer, more welcoming environment for travelers.
- Delivers active transportation improvements across multiple projects, building miles of new bike lanes and sidewalks to create safer streets.

For more information, visit the Commission's website at <u>catc.ca.gov</u>.