Contact Information:

Justin Behrens (916) 654-4245 media@catc.ca.gov

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California Invests \$1.5 Billion to Reduce Congestion, Improve Safety, and Grow the World's Fourth-Largest Economy

SACRAMENTO – The California Transportation Commission today awarded nearly \$1.5 billion to 37 projects across California that support a vibrant economy, elevate community voices, move people and goods efficiently and safely, and ensure a healthy environment for all.

The projects selected by the Commission have total costs exceeding \$17 billion and will create more than 227,000 jobs. In addition to reducing congestion and making it safer and easier to travel around communities across the state, these investments also make California's freight system more efficient by better connecting ports, farms, and consumers while increasing the number of zero-emission truck stations in the state by 25 percent.

"The projects we are funding today represent a massive investment in our transportation system," said Commission Chair Darnell Grisby. "It is the responsibility of the Commission to ensure that public dollars deliver the greatest possible return on that investment by improving the movement of goods and services around the state, preserving the environment, creating thousands of good-paying jobs, and most importantly, reducing out-of-pocket costs for all Californians."

"Under Governor Gavin Newsom's leadership, these transformative investments represent a bold step towards a future where our transportation system is safer, more efficient and a driving force for economic prosperity," said California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin. "By tackling congestion and enhancing connectivity, we are creating a brighter, more sustainable California for all."

These projects:

- Reduce congestion on roads and highways by expanding transit and rail options and providing more biking and walking options;
- Improve safety for all modes of transportation;
- Strengthen the backbone of California's economy and move billions of dollars of goods more efficiently;
- Expand the state's zero-emission freight infrastructure; and,
- Invest in historically underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by pollution.

"Today's investments support communities across California as they aim to improve the safety and efficiency of their transportation networks," said Commission Vice Chair Clarissa Falcon. "These projects will reduce congestion bottlenecks, improve access to schools, jobs, and other destinations, and continue California's leadership in the transition to zero-emissions freight movement."

The Interagency Equity Advisory Committee, convened by the Commission, the California State Transportation Agency, and the California Department of Transportation, reviewed project applications to ensure projects reflected community input and priorities. Projects were selected using strategies from the state's <u>Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure</u>, to help achieve California's climate, public health, safety, equity and economic goals.

The Commission awarded funding to the projects as part of the fourth funding cycle of competitive grant programs established by Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. With today's investments and previously awarded funds, the 2024 Senate Bill 1 programs include nearly \$1.7 billion over two fiscal years for three competitive grant programs: the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and the Local Partnership Competitive Program.

Highlights from each program are included below (note that some projects receive funding in multiple programs):

Solutions for Congested Corridors Program

- \$483 million in Senate Bill 1 funds for 7 projects.
- Funds projects that reduce traffic congestion, expand transit service, and improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety.
- Supports affordable housing and mixed-use (residential and commercial) development by providing high-frequency transit options and easy access to safe biking and walking options.
- Includes bus and rail upgrades that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.

Trade Corridor Enhancement Program

- \$995.5 million in program funds for 24 new projects and two previously awarded projects.
- Shifts freight from trucks to rail, reducing pollution-causing idling for trucks, cars, and trains.
- Enhances safety by eliminating at-grade crossings and taking freight trucks off neighborhood streets.
- Includes more than \$94.2 million for zero-emission freight infrastructure to build refueling and recharging facilities along key freight corridors.
- Adds 509 charging ports, increasing the existing number of available medium- and heavy-duty charging stations by 25 percent statewide.

Local Partnership Competitive Program

- \$201.7 million in Senate Bill 1 funds for 11 projects. Funding in this program is available to jurisdictions where residents voted to approve transportation-specific taxes or fees.
- Expands local and regional transit networks by building new and enhanced transit stations and buying new zero-emissions buses.
- Improves interchanges, overcrossings, and other facilities to create a safer, more welcoming environment for all travelers.

Additional information and the full lists of projects included in each program can be found on the Commission's website at http://catc.ca.gov/.

For more information about California's transportation investments, visit build.ca.gov.

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