

2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Fact Sheet¹

Executive Summary

Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) is a joint-powers authority comprised of the County of Fresno and the 15 incorporated cities. Fresno COG's primary role as the RTPA is comprehensive regional planning, with an emphasis on transportation, and has expanded to touch on issues such as air quality, housing, growth, and economic development. Fresno COG is responsible for developing the region's funding priorities for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by submitting a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

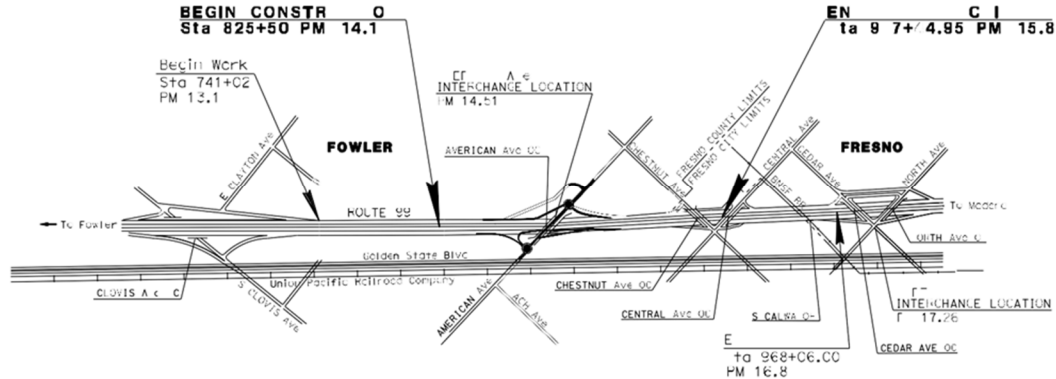
Carryover Balance from 2022 STIP			
Project Name and Location	Project Description	Requested RIP Amount	Estimated Completion
South Fresno Interchange Project, North/Cedar Avenue Phase	Modify existing interchanges along SR 99 utilizing standard interchange designs	\$ 45,346,000	2032
Programming, Planning, Monitoring	PPM for FY 2024/25 – 2025/26	\$1,197,000	
SR 41 Excelsior Expressway, SR 41 from Elkhorn Ave to Excelsior Ave	Construct a 4-lane divided expressway from an existing 2-lane expressway and close a 6-mileunimproved gap.	\$12,000,000	2029
Programming, Planning, Monitoring	PPM for FY 2025/26-2026/27	\$798,000	
An RTIP total funding amount of \$59,341,000 is being reprogrammed in the 2024 STIP.			

Mid-Cycle STIP Funding			
Project Name and Location	Project Description	Requested RIP Amount	Estimated Completion
South Fresno Interchange Project, American Avenue Phase	Modify existing interchanges along SR 99 utilizing standard interchange designs	\$4,760,000	2030
Carryover project on the design and right of way phase for a total of \$4,760,000.			

2024 RTIP Proposed Programming			
Project Name and Location	Project Description	Requested RIP Amount	Estimated Completion
South Fresno Interchange Project, American Avenue Phase	Modify existing interchanges along SR 99 utilizing standard interchange designs	\$42,353,000	2030
Programming, Planning, Monitoring	PPM for FY 2027/28-2028/29	\$1,080,000	
A total of \$43,433,000 is proposed for new programming.			

¹ The fact sheet (one- or two-page) will be posted on the Commission's website and must comply with state and federal web accessibility laws and standards.

American Avenue is the Major 2024 RTIP Candidate



Benefits

The American Avenue Project will modify the interchange along SR 99, American Ave, with a modern interchange design to improve access, operations, and safety on the state highway, as well as the adjacent local road network. Better access is both critical and potentially transformative for this growing currently zoned for 1,000 acres industrial area within, and just south of, the City of Fresno to provide good paying jobs, help address air pollution, and racial and economic equity concerns. Approximately 4,526 jobs will be created by 2035 in this area from the development of vacant and agricultural land into their planned land uses of light and heavy industrial and business park. Buildout beyond 2035 could bring an additional 5,000 jobs to this area once fully developed. The new interchanges would have a direct impact on safety. The project will replace an aged and obsolete overcrossing, realign, and widen ramps, eliminate isolated ramps, install signalized intersections, provide sidewalk, and bicycle facilities, install a sound barrier to mitigate traffic noise, provide EV charging stations, and replace or rehabilitate existing pavement. The improved facilities would meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Furthermore, the project will reduce lifecycle costs, improve safety, improve access to jobs, reduce congestion, and improve goods movement.

According to Caltrans' Air Quality Report (January 2021), under a no-build scenario, driving conditions would further deteriorate as greater traffic congestion, delay, and vehicles would continue idling, which is a primary source of toxic air emissions. Circuitous out-of-direction travel would continue and become worse, with more potholes and cracks in the pavement, making driving in the area even more difficult. The project will leverage several measures to reduce GHG emissions, and potential climate change impacts, including active transportation facilities, travel demand management strategies, electrification, and air pollution control standards.

Goals and Objectives

The 2024 RTP furthers the goals and policies of Fresno COG's adopted 2022 RTP/SCS. Fresno COG's adopted 2022 RTP/SCS meets the recommended GHG reduction targets set forth by the California Air Resources Board, reduces per capita VMT, and the projects proposed in the 2024 RTP are consistent with the goals, policies and funding capacity demonstrated in the RTP/SCS. Our regional vision, goals, and policies focus on areas including infrastructure, safety, accessibility, connectivity, sustainability and resiliency, economy, and partnerships. The project's design responds to community vulnerabilities, and aligns with adopted state, regional and local climate action plans to ensure equitable development. The project also aligns with various environmental justice and greenhouse gas mitigation plans, policies, and strategies. It will include operational efficiencies to help accommodate the region's future transportation needs. Aside from the safety improvements, this project will increase connectivity for economically underserved and tribal communities, improve operational efficiency of interregional freight movement and local farm-to-market travel, provide access to essential services.