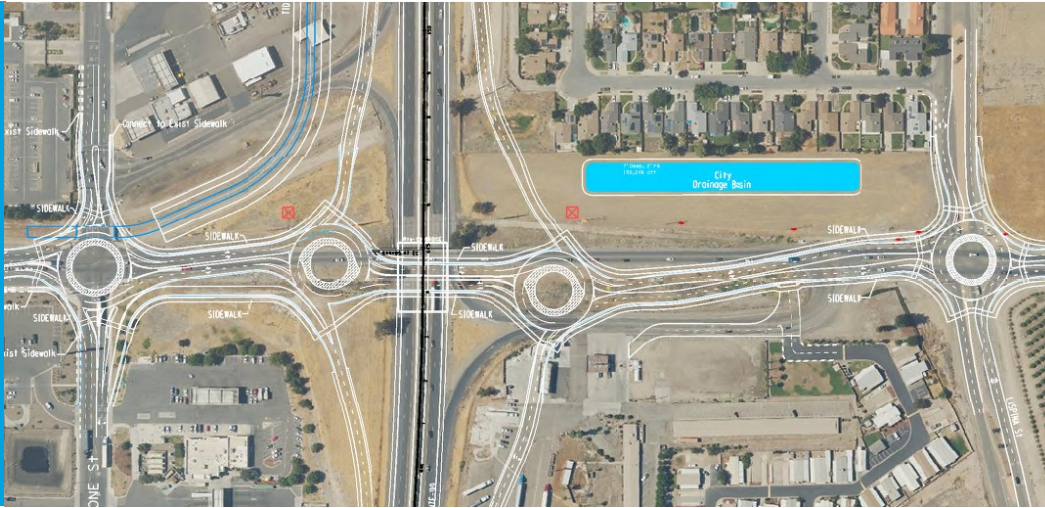




Tulare SR 99 Corridor and Paige Avenue Multimodal Interchange Enhancements

Project Location

Project is located on State Route (SR) 99 in the City of Tulare, Tulare County from 0.4 miles south of Avenue 200 Overcrossing to 0.3 miles north of Prosperity Overcrossing (Postmile 25.2 to 30.6). The Paige Avenue interchange is included in these limits and extends east-west to the adjacent Blackstone Street & Laspina Street intersections.

Project Scope of Work

Caltrans, in partnership with the Tulare County Association of Governments, proposes to upgrade roughly five miles SR 99 from four lanes to six lanes in the City of Tulare. The Project would upgrade the existing mainline lanes, shoulders, drainage systems, structures, and Transportation Management Systems within the Project limits. At Paige Avenue (Ave), the Project would reconstruct the interchange ramps and adjacent local road intersections. Paige Ave would see holistic enhancements including the addition of roundabouts, wide shared-use paths, and gap-closing sidewalks to expand safe, accessible, low-cost modes of transport.

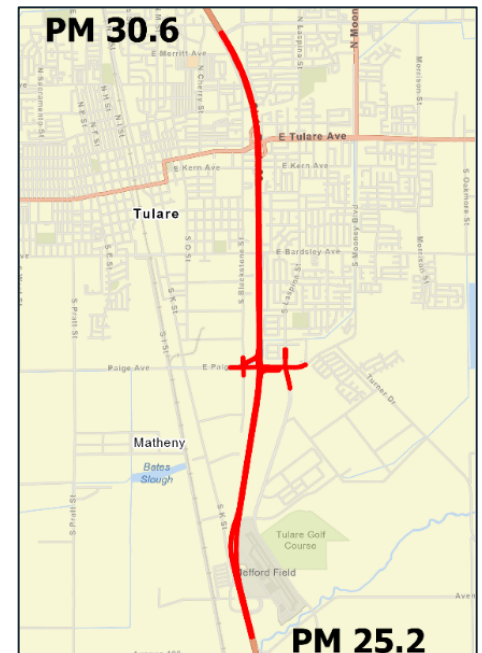
Project Need and Funding Information

SR 99 is designated as part of the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) and provides a critical linkage for shipment of agricultural goods to markets outside of the Central Valley via freight trucks and provides for through traffic between major seaports and metropolitan areas of California and the greater US West Coast. Enhancement of this section of SR 99, which runs through the heart of Tulare County, is needed to improve freight truck mobility and travel time reliability, preserve acceptable facility operation, increase safety, and modernize existing infrastructure.

The Paige Ave interchange lacks adequate geometrics and is not up to current Caltrans design standards, presenting a concern for the safe and efficient movement of freight, vehicles, and residents. The existing interchange has limited active transportation facilities that restricts safe east-west connectivity. The Project would significantly enhance access, mobility, and safety for the surrounding area which includes disadvantaged communities and some of Tulare's largest businesses that drives goods movement on Paige Ave and onto SR 99.

In October 2024, Project was awarded \$98.04 million in construction funding from the USDOT MPDG program. Project currently seeks approximately \$62.7 million from the SB1 TCEP program to complete the funding package.

Project Location Map



Key Project Benefits

- ❖ Improves operational performance, increases connectivity, and improves travel-time reliability.
- ❖ Installs Complete Street elements such as 10-ft. wide shared-use paths along Paige Ave.
- ❖ Replaces existing signalized intersections with roundabouts along Paige Avenue, resulting in less vehicle delay, removal of conflict points and collision types associated with intersecting traffic.
- ❖ Mitigation funding for Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT) in the form of transit and vanpool expansion within disadvantaged communities.

Project Cost, Schedule, & Outputs

COST

PHASE	AMOUNT
Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED)	\$4,150,000
Preliminary Specifications and Engineering (PS&E)	\$6,370,000
Right Of Way (R/W)	\$43,623,000
Construction	\$172,000,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$226,143,000

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

MILESTONE	DATE
PA&ED Certification	December 2023
PS&E Completion	June 2026
R/W Completion	June 2026
Begin Construction	February 2027
OPEN TO TRAFFIC	October 2029

KEY OUTPUTS

- ✓ Construct 10.6 miles of new lane on SR 99.
- ✓ Reconstruct Paige Ave overcrossing across SR 99 into an undercrossing.
- ✓ Modification to four interchange ramps.
- ✓ Construct four roundabouts.
- ✓ Construct 1.7 miles of Class 1, ten-foot wide, shared-use active transportation facilities.
- ✓ Construct 1.53 miles of new sidewalk where there are currently gaps or missing facility.
- ✓ Construct 0.3 miles of sound walls.
- ✓ Improvements to SR 99 shoulders, medians, cross culverts, horizontal curves, vertical clearances, and adjacent drainage basins.

Aligning with the California Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

The project reduces environmental impacts by decreasing localized traffic congestion (and associated greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions) surrounding the project limits, including disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, the project will allow for Caltrans to implement future lane management strategies on SR 99 (i.e., managed lanes) that can decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

ECONOMY AND SAFETY

The Paige Ave interchange reconstruction would lessen traffic queuing and alleviate congestion and delay by removing the need for vehicles to stop at a signal or stop sign. All traffic would flow through the Paige Ave/interchange roundabouts at reasonable speeds, ensuring reliable travel times for goods and people while increasing safety.

Roundabouts are proven traffic measures to significantly reduce severe and fatal traffic collisions. The addition of a mainline travel lane on SR 99 in each direction will provide safety for merging truck and vehicle traffic and improve throughput of critical goods through Tulare and the San Joaquin Valley.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

The project builds on critical community needs by expanding low-cost, multi-modal transportation choices through the construction of dedicated active transportation facilities at Paige Ave and surrounding local streets, better connecting residents to jobs, goods, services, and educational/medical facilities.

The project footprint minimizes community impacts and will not require acquisition of any residences. Mitigation measures include installing sound walls and providing funding for transit expansion and vanpools to fully off-set the increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

Contact Us

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