



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MORE THAN HALF A BILLION DOLLARS TARGETED TO UPGRADE TRANSPORTATION AND DRIVE JOB GROWTH**

*New state budget also increases transportation funding by \$351 million*

FRESNO – The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has allocated \$510 million to 83 transportation projects that will put people to work improving the state's highways, bridges, and public transit. One of the highlights of the meeting was the CTC revising its funding estimate upward for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) for the 2014-15 fiscal year from \$2.2 billion to approximately \$2.4 billion. The revision was in response to the new state budget, which provides \$351 million in new transportation funding through the early repayment of loans made to the General Fund.

The new funding includes \$210 million for the SHOPP, which pays for transportation safety projects, pavement repair and preservation work, and upgrades bridges; \$27 million for Caltrans maintenance projects; \$100 million for city and county transportation; \$9 million for bicycle and pedestrian projects under California's new Active Transportation Program; and \$5 million to mitigate environmental effects of proposed transportation improvements.

The \$510 million in CTC funding allocations include nearly \$163 million for "fix it first" projects that will repair bumpy pavement, preserve roads that are in good condition from deteriorating and upgrade bridges to make them safer and stronger. Most of California's highways are more than a half-century old, and they carry nearly half of the nation's container freight – heavy loads that pound our highways more than any other state.

"To get the most bang for the buck for taxpayers, Caltrans targets dollars where they are most effective - pavement preservation," Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty said. "Every \$1 spent on preventive pavement maintenance saves Californians \$11 that would have been spent on expensive pavement repairs."

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The allocations also include \$104 million from Proposition 1B, a transportation bond approved by voters in 2006. To date, more than \$17 billion in Proposition 1B funds have been put to work statewide for transportation purposes.

Here are some of the significant projects that will improve and/or preserve California's valuable investments in its transportation system that received allocations:

**Kern County:** \$12,270,000 – Tehachapi Trade Corridor Rail Improvement Project, in Kern County, at the Union Pacific Railroad Mojave Subdivision from Bakersfield to Mojave will create an additional 2.8 miles of double track, improving rail operational capacity.

**Kern County:** \$264,000 – State Route 46 Pedestrian Path, in and near Lost Hills from 0.1 mile west of the California Aqueduct to Lost Hills Road; construct approximately 700 feet of sidewalk, 8 sidewalks and 5 curb ramps.

Please see the attached file for more information about all projects that received allocations.

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