

**JIM COSTA**

16TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
WEB PAGE: [www.costa.house.gov](http://www.costa.house.gov)

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MEMBER

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is with great pleasure I write this letter of support for the application of the County of Madera to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity for the Madera 41 South Expressway Project (Project). If awarded, the funding will allow Caltrans and its partners to deliver a meaningful project and advance the region's smart sustainable growth goals.

This funding is critical to improve access to one of the fastest-growing communities in Madera County and the San Joaquin Valley, and one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. This project will improve approximately 4.5 miles of State Route 41 and is necessary to modernize a rural highway that will enhance safety and traffic operations for the region. Additionally, State Route 41 is a critical link in that serves the rest of California and our nation as it helps transport the agricultural commodities of the San Joaquin Valley to rail, freight, and port terminals for worldwide distribution and is also highly utilized by local, state, national, and international visitors to Yosemite National Park each year, serving four and a half million visitors each year.

With the amount of visitors in Yosemite National Park each year, it is critical State Route 41 is able to have safe and quick access to and from the park in the event of an emergency as the route serves a dual purpose as the primary and alternative evacuation route for the park in addition to communities living in nearby high-risk fire zones. Notably, in the last four years, seven wildfires greater than 5,000 acres forced nearby communities to utilize State Route 41 to be used as an evacuation route. As wildfire seasons in California continue to be exacerbated by a multitude of factors, it is the upmost importance such routes are invested in to be prepared for the next emergency.

This Project is vital to Madera County residents and is a critical infrastructure project that has been prioritized by the community and supported by taxpayers. Thank you for your fair and full consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Costa". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress