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Staff Report

ITEM 9

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Judy Holwell, Project Manager 
Date: April 5, 2013
Subject: Letter of Support for State Route 198 Corridor
Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan

Discussion

Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) in partnership with the Fresno Council of Governments, Tulare County Association of Governments and Caltrans is applying for a Partnership Planning Grant to develop a State Route 198 (SR 198) Corridor Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan (Plan) (attached). The intent of the Plan is to establish up to date transportation data for the corridor; to establish performance measure criteria to evaluate future projects on the corridor; and to apply the measures to provide operational and safety improvements to the corridor. The Plan will also evaluate the economic development benefits that would result from the recommended improvements.

SR 198 is a critical east-west roadway connecting State Route 99 to Interstate 5. It is essential in moving people and goods through the region and it is the primary transportation and re-supply corridor supporting Naval Air Station Lemoore (NASL). Caltrans identifies the corridor as a "key east-west corridor", while at the same time describes it as "a smaller two-lane facility that is not suitable to carry existing heavy traffic/truck volumes and will also experience substantial truck growth into the future."

Widening SR 198 to four lanes from NASL to Interstate 5 would enhance Lemoore's ability to attract business and industry to our area and we should pursue every effort to improve the effectiveness and safety of the highway. Therefore, it is essential that the Lemoore City Council shows its support for this project and may do so by authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit the attached letter in support of the State Route 198 Corridor Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan.

Budget Impact

None.

Recommendation

That Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the attached letter in support of State Route 198 Corridor Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan.