

## **SACRAMENTO REGION OFFERS \$20 MILLION IN FUNDS FOR I-80 HOV LANES**

*California Transportation Commission Asked to Consider Project for Bond Funds*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SACRAMENTO** – The Sacramento Area Council of Governments is making a final push to persuade the California Transportation Commission this Wednesday to fund \$80 million to help construct a carpool (High Occupancy Vehicle) lane from the Sacramento River to Longview Drive in Sacramento County. SACOG originally asked for \$100 million for this project, but is reducing the amount after partnering with the Sacramento Transportation Authority to provide an additional \$20 million in Measure A sales tax funds toward this project, raising the local commitment to \$120 million. This project was recommended by the SACOG Board of Directors and Caltrans Director Will Kempton in January, and last week Governor Schwarzenegger specifically called on the CTC to add this and 12 other projects around the state to the CTC staff’s initial funding recommendations.

Mike McKeever, SACOG Executive Director, noted that “by the CTC staff’s own evaluation system this project scored higher than 21 northern projects totaling \$1.3 billion that they are recommending for funding. Our region has united behind this project and this additional \$20 million reflects that. We are hopeful that the Commissioners will reconsider this project among comparable projects recommended by the CTC staff.”

The I-80 HOV lanes from the Sacramento River/I-5 to Longview Road would be ready for construction in 2008. Half of the project’s \$200 million price tag is to be funded with funds from Sacramento County’s Measure A, supported overwhelmingly by the voters in 2004. The eight-mile project would have a high value by reducing congestion westbound in the morning commute and eastbound in the evening commute, which has intensified over the past three years. The I-80 HOV lanes as proposed extend an existing short carpool lane closer to downtown Sacramento. This also creates capacity for express buses, and is a great improvement over existing carpool lanes that don’t fully connect employment destinations.

CTC will select from the staff’s recommended Pool of Appropriate Projects in programming \$4.5 billion. Forty percent of those funds must be spent in Northern California. The CTC staff scored the projects based on a series of criteria including: project readiness for construction (prior to June 2011), demonstrable congestion relief and connectivity benefits in both urban and non-urban regions of the state, geographic balance, and the north-south split.

In a competitive funding process, representatives from the SACOG region including 22 cities and six counties met with state legislative staff representing the offices of Assemblymembers Gaines, Jones, Nakanishi, Niello, Wolk, and Senators Aanestad, Cox, Machado and Steinberg to strategize advocacy before the CTC at the February 20 public hearing. Outsized by the larger areas of the state in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas,

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but not to be outsmarted, the SACOG region representing six percent of the state's population, focused on the performance benefits of the projects nominated. The region is working to follow the Blueprint smart growth patterns to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution seeks a mix of highway, local road and transit projects through the variety of transportation programs to emerge from the \$19.9 billion in transportation bonds approved by voters. The 5 projects that are recommended by CTC staff for funding include:

- Carpool lanes U.S. 50, El Dorado Hills to Bass Lake
- Carpool lanes I-80 Roseville Phase II
- Carpool lanes I-80 Roseville Phase III
- Route 65 Lincoln bypass
- Carpool lanes U.S. 50 Watt to Sunrise

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