

County of Monterey



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September 13, 2023

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

Re: Support for “Reconnecting Salinas: Feasibility Study of Key Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Barriers” grant application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors for the County of Monterey, I am writing to express strong support for funding of the “Reconnecting Salinas: Feasibility Study of Key Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Barriers” project through the United States Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Program.

Caltrans is seeking \$416,544 in grant funding to support a feasibility study of alternative crossings at three major transportation barriers that divide the community: U.S. Route 101, State Route (SR) 183, and Union Pacific Railroad in Salinas, California. The study will explore opportunities to improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility and connect low-income housing to employment, schools, retail destinations, medical providers, rail and bus transit facilities, and other economic opportunities.

With \$104,136 in State and regional resources also committed, the study will fulfill RCN’s goals of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highway barriers that inhibit community connectivity, mobility, and access to economic opportunities. This study will be consistent with Caltrans’ priorities of delivering transportation projects that promote multi-modalism and reduce vehicle-miles traveled, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollutants, and increase equity and access to historically disadvantaged and neglected communities.

This feasibility study is an essential step in overcoming the transportation barriers that have burdened generations of communities living in disadvantaged neighborhoods in Salinas. Funding this study will help to achieve our goals of enhancing the multimodal transportation network and advancing equity and livability in the Salinas community. We believe the study is a strong candidate for RCN 2023 funding and urge you to fund the project.

Sincerely,

LUIS A. ALEJO
Chair, Board of Supervisors