

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0508

January 29, 2018

California Transportation Commission  
Susan Bransen, Executive Director  
1120 N Street, MS-52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California Transportation Commission 2018 Local Partnership Program**

Dear Executive Director Bransen:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the City of Hesperia grant proposal for \$3.9 million in 2018 Local Partnership Program (LPP) funding for the Ranchoero Road Widening Project. This project is being completed as a joint project with San Bernardino County with match funding provided by the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and development contributions. The proposed improvements to Ranchoero Road will benefit the residents of Hesperia, surrounding communities and all motorists who travel along Interstate 15 and Ranchoero Road.

LPP grant funding will be used to increase capacity of a five-mile segment of Ranchoero Road by widening it from two to four lanes between Interstate 15 and Seventh Avenue. The Widening Project is the final phase of the Ranchoero Road Corridor project, which consists of a new interchange at Ranchoero Road and Interstate 15 and an underpass at Ranchoero Road and the BNSF Railway tracks. Interstate 15 remains the primary transportation connection between San Diego and Los Angeles, and the Victor Valley, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City and points beyond. Upon completion, the Ranchoero Road Widening Project will address a significant transportation deficiency for east-west mobility and access to and from Interstate 15 within the Victor Valley region. This project will further facilitate freight movement, improve air quality and shorten response times for emergency vehicles.

Ranchoero Road is an existing arterial street crossing the Interstate 15 eastbound and westbound ramps and is identified as a regionally significant corridor. Over time, increasing traffic congestion related to residential and commercial development will make an already untenable situation on Ranchoero Road even worse. Hesperia Unified School District currently has a high school along this portion of Ranchoero Road, and with it currently being a two-lane arterial street, the need to widen this corridor cannot be overstated. Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists are frequently forced to walk or drive in the dirt and on private property to access the high school. This is a serious safety risk that can be avoided with this project.

These LPP funds are also critical to building the multimodal transportation infrastructure that the Victor Valley desperately needs. The LPP award will complete the funding necessary for construction of this five-mile segment of Ranchoero Road to include curbs for vehicular traffic, pedestrian and cyclist improvements, aqueduct bridge reconstruction, at-grade railroad crossing, drainage improvements, utility relocations and traffic signal installations.

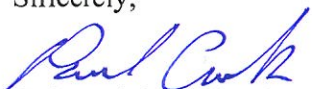
As a member of Congress, I am supportive of the new capacity this project brings because it meets the goals as noted in the California Transportation Commission Program. Additionally, this proposal is a best practice

engineering concept that will improve ease of access and traffic movement along a regionally recognized corridor that is becoming increasingly impacted. Planned drainage improvements will help to reduce localized flooding and associated traffic-related injuries and deaths.

I believe strongly that this LPP grant application has the potential to remedy many local and regional transportation issues, provide improvements, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that will benefit the public health and environment. The proposal will encourage more efficient travel to population centers, and promote enhanced economic benefits to local residents who rely on Rancho Road for access to Interstate 15.

Thank you for your commitment to investing in our State's infrastructure and allowing me to express my support for this long-overdue project in my District. As the City and region continues to experience rapid growth, it is more important than ever for updated infrastructure to meet the growing needs of my constituents. If you have any questions about this letter or the impact this project will have on my district and the surrounding region, please feel free to contact me at (760) 247-1815.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cook".

Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)

Congressman, 8<sup>th</sup> District of California