



Michael Ayala
Chairman

Darin Grossi
Executive Director

TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

June 13th, 2018

Susan Branson – Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: TCTC’s Letter of Support for Caltrans District 10’s Active Transportation Program Grant Application for Groveland Pedestrian and Bike Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Branson,

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) supports Caltrans District 10’s Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant Application for the Groveland Pedestrian and Bike Improvement Project. The TCTC is aware of the need for active transportation improvements along State Route 120 and Ferretti Road in Groveland. This project is a priority for the Tuolumne County region and the project is listed in the 2016 Tuolumne County Regional Transportation Plan.

In early 2017, Caltrans District 10 staff reached out to Tuolumne County and to the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) to partner and potentially be the lead agency for the Groveland ATP project. Tuolumne County staff has submitted grant applications for the Groveland ATP Project in two previous Active Transportation Program (ATP) cycles which were unsuccessful. Caltrans District 10 has the resources to make this application more competitive for the required outreach and preliminary design updates. Tuolumne County staff supported Caltrans District 10 to become the lead agency for this project. This is the first cycle where Caltrans Districts will be submitting ATP grant applications.

The Groveland ATP Project will close several critical gaps of missing infrastructure in the pedestrian and bicycling network for the Groveland community. Some of these missing gaps include sidewalk improvements along Ferretti Road from the Two Pizza Guys Pizza Pies to the intersection of Ferretti and SR 120. Caltrans will be constructed Class II bicycle lanes from Downtown Groveland to Tenaya Elementary School. These new improvements will help students, tourists, and local residents complete bicycle and walking trips from downtown Groveland to Tenaya Elementary School, Pine Mountain Lake subdivision, and Mary Laveroni Park.

As part of the public outreach, Caltrans held a stakeholders meeting with the TCTC, Tuolumne County, and Big Oak Flat School District. The TCTC also send comments on how to improve the project and Caltrans incorporated some of these recommendations. Caltrans also held a public workshop held on October 23rd 2017 at the Groveland Community Hall and presented conceptual designs and a summary of the updated Groveland ATP project at. Public input was received and the community expressed support for the improvements proposed by Caltrans.

Groveland is a gateway community to Yosemite National Park. As such, the town is a natural staging point for many of the visitors heading into the Park. The result is a small town that facilitates both motorized and non-motorized traffic for hundreds of thousands of folks. This application will assist by constructing some of the most important elements of Compete Streets and active transportation network system that are missing. The subdivision where a vast majority of the population lives, Pine Mountain Lake, is unable to complete bicycle and walking trips into downtown Groveland, Tenaya Elementary School, and Mary Laveroni Park because of large gaps in pedestrian and bicycling facilities. The lack of facilities is especially problematic, for tourists, visiting between May and September during the peak travel season.

As part of the public outreach, Caltrans held a stakeholders meeting with the TCTC, Tuolumne County, and Big Oak Flat School District. Caltrans also held a public workshop held on October 23rd 2017 at the Groveland Community Hall and presented conceptual designs and a summary of the updated Groveland ATP project at. Public input was received and the community expressed support for the improvements proposed by Caltrans. The TCTC also send comments on how to improve the project and Caltrans incorporated some of these recommendations.

As part of the strong local support and partnership for this project, Tuolumne County is contributing a local funding cash match of \$180,000 for this project. The Groveland Lightning District is supportive of the ATP project. The Big-Oak Flat/Groveland Unified School District has expressed support for the project since it will help improve safety for students walking and bicycling to Tenaya Elementary School.

Other regions throughout California have complained about Caltrans Districts not selected ATP projects that have local and regional support. The Groveland Pedestrian and Bike ATP Project has local support in Groveland and is a high priority for the Tuolumne County region. We believe Caltrans District 10 strategic selection of this project; early public outreach, early local agency coordination, and incorporation of public comments into the project could be used as case study for how other Caltrans districts should approach the ATP project selection and outreach.

We urge you to carefully consider this application and the many positive impacts it will have on the valuable gateway community, Groveland and the Tuolumne County region.

Respectfully,

Michael Ayala - Chair
TCTC

Cc: Sinaren Pheng – Chief - Project Initiation & Travel Forecasting – Caltrans District 10
Eric Chin – Acting Chief - Project Initiation & Travel Forecasting – Caltrans District 10
Gregoria Ponce – Chief - Rural Planning – Caltrans District 10
Kim MacFarlane – Assistant CRA Director – Tuolumne County
Tanya Allen – Supervising Engineer – Tuolumne County