

## **HESPERIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Community Dayo244-5751
Hesperia Higho244-9898
Hesperia Jr. Higho244-9886
Mojave Higho948-3999
Oak Hills Higho244-2283
Ranchero Middleo948-0175
Shadow Ridge ISP & Home
Programso949-8267
Sultana Higho947-6777

January 11, 2018

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

RE: 2018 Local Partnership Program (LPP)/Ranchero Road Widening Project

Dear Executive Director Bransen:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the 2018 Local Partnership Program grant proposal being submitted by the City of Hesperia, as a joint project with the County of San Bernardino. The project consists of improvements along a five-mile stretch of Ranchero Road including curbs, pedestrian and cyclist improvements, aqueduct bridge crossing, at-grade railroad crossing, drainage system improvements, utility relocations and traffic signal installations.

Ranchero Road is an existing arterial street crossing the Interstate 15 (I-15) Freeway east and west bound ramps and is identified as a regionally significant corridor. Over time, increasing traffic related to added residential, commercial and educational development is, and will continue, to impact Ranchero Road, both eastbound and westbound. Hesperia Unified School District currently has a high school along this stretch of Ranchero Road and with it currently being a two lane arterial street, the necessity of widening of this corridor cannot be overstated. Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists are forced to walk or ride in the dirt and on private property to access the high school.

This project is the City's highest priority project as the widening of Ranchero Road will provide much needed east-west mobility and ease congestion on the only other major east-west corridor in the City. With Phase I and II of the Ranchero Road Corridor Project completed, this Ranchero Road Widening Project, which is Phase III of this Corridor, is essential because it will improve motorist circulation and improve the City's ability to accommodate future growth.

The Phase III Ranchero Road Widening Project will be a key traffic management element benefitting the eastern and southern half of the City, as well as commuters from neighboring cities including Victorville and Apple Valley. This project will alleviate congestion on Bear Valley Road, the most heavily traveled east-west corridor in the region.

Hesperia Unified School District firmly believes that the 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 and promote the potential for enhanced economic benefits to the region.

As Hesperia continues to grow, infrastructure improvements and expansions are vital. I am pleased to support Hesperia's endeavor to secure LPP funding in order to fill the funding gap that is needed to complete the Ranchero Road Widening Project. I hope you will give this vital project your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Superintendent