

Roads requests—cont.'d from page 1

The projects were listed on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for funding but due to California's financial problems have not been funded.

"Highway 99 is essential to the San Joaquin Valley's ag economy," Mr. Nunes said. "It is the primary transportation corridor for farm to market deliveries. The largest percentage of population growth in the state is occurring in the Central Valley and Highway 99 is increasingly suffering from gridlock and dangerous traffic conditions."

Tulare County

\$6.2 million for improvements to the Ben Maddox Bridge at Hwy 198

This project will improve the Ben Maddox Way Bridge crossing Highway 198 in Visalia. The improvements include widening the existing over-crossing structure from five lanes to eight lanes, restriping and widening Ben Maddox Way as it approaches the over-crossing, and widening Noble Avenue. The city is also seeking funds to include the widening of the on/off ramps from Highway 198 to the frontage roads of Mineral King Avenue and Noble Avenue, as well as the signalization of Mineral King Avenue and the on/off ramps for west bound Highway 198.

\$5 million for the City of Visalia's bus maintenance facility

The city that has experienced significant growth over the last 25 years, and its population is expected to continue to grow at a very

fast rate for the foreseeable future. In meeting the challenges this growth presents, the city is seeking to expand its municipal bus service to better serve the populace both in and around Visalia. An important element in these efforts is its planned bus maintenance facility. Located near the city's new transit center, the maintenance facility will provide critical service in the repair and upkeep of not only the city's bus fleet, but also that of Tulare County. The project is vital to the city's plans to sustain necessary, adequate and safe public transit to its citizenry.

\$58 million for the avenue 416/Mountain View widening project near the City of Dinuba.

The Avenue 416/Mountain View corridor provides an essential link between Highways 99 and 63. State transportation officials have determined that this corridor provides the most efficient flow of traffic in the east-west direction for northern Tulare County.

\$60 million for the rehabilitation of farm to market roads in Tulare County

The rehabilitation of Tulare County's farm-to-market road system involves both roads and bridges that serve Tulare County's agriculture. In 2001, Tulare was the number one agricultural producing county in the nation, with a commodity value of \$3.5 billion. From 1970 to 2001, agricultural income has increased from \$0.4 billion to \$3.5 billion. Over that same time period, the

farm commodity tonnage for certain crops has increased nearly 400% and has added over 300,000 trucks to the county roads. Tulare County ranks fourth in California with over 3,000 miles in maintained mileage.

Fresno County

\$2,741,505 for the Dry Creek and Enterprise Canal trail project

The community trails systems along Dry Creek and the Enterprise Canal were identified in the mid-1970's by Fresno County as regional recreational trail routes of countywide significance. The Enterprise Canal trail corridor extends via Shaw Avenue from the Friant-Kern Canal on the east to the San Joaquin River bluffs on the west via Copper Avenue. The Big Dry Creek trail corridor is portrayed as a regional trail extending from the Southern Pacific rail line (Clovis Old Town trail) on the south to Sunnyside Avenue and the Enterprise Canal on the north.

\$2 million request for the City of Fresno for a Major Investment Study

This project will evaluate both the environmental and economic impact of developing alternative mass transportation within a specified corridor. The analysis will be used to determine which mode of transportation will be most effective in reducing congestion and improving air quality.

\$10,730,000 to improve traffic circulation and operations in the vicinity of California State University, Fresno

Transportation Equity Act funding of this project will allow the City of Fresno to build upon improvements recently completed at the Willow/Ashlan and the Willow/Shaw intersections and has been deemed essential in anticipation of the construction of the Save Mart Center, a multi-purpose facility for sporting and concert events. It consists of the installation of dual left turn lanes, traffic signal modification, roadway widening and reconstruction of curb and gutters, completion of median island work, installation of conduits for future fiber optics, and repaving of the intersections. Additionally, the project will include widening Chestnut from 2 to 4 lanes between Shaw and Bullard Avenues.

\$10 million to alleviate traffic congestion on Peach Avenue near the Fresno airport

The goal of this project is to make improvements on Peach Avenue to provide better access to the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, the primary commercial airport in the San Joaquin Valley. The airport is vital to the local economy and serves six counties in the San Joaquin Valley. Recently, significant improvements have been made to the airport and it is expected that passenger use will increase. This proposal would allow for Peach Avenue to adequately handle the increases in traffic that are expected. The specific task of this proposal is to widen Peach Avenue between Butler and Belmont Avenues to a divided four-lane street.