

## S.J. wins \$280M for Highway 99 projects

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March 15, 2007 6:00 AM

The California Transportation Commission announced spending recommendations Wednesday for a \$1 billion bond account earmarked for Highway 99, selecting projects in San Joaquin County for more than \$280 million.

The CTC's decision is an apparent reversal of fortune for the county in light of a relative snub by the agency when it was distributing a larger and less restricted bond fund last month. The recommendation, however, was no surprise to San Joaquin Council of Governments Executive Director Andrew Chesley.

"We've been working hard on this for a while," he said, crediting Caltrans for its cooperation.

### Road Work

The county plans to widen two lengths of Highway 99 from four lanes to six:

- Crosstown Freeway to Arch Road
- Arch Road to Route 120

Caltrans and the counties through which Highway 99 meanders worked closely to ensure projects met state guidelines before submission.

With a smaller pool of competitors and clear guidelines for projects, little deviation from the submitted list was expected from the CTC, Chesley said.

San Joaquin County divided its submission into two separate projects: one from the Crosstown Freeway to Arch Road and the other from Arch Road to Route 120 in Manteca.

The combined 13 1/2-mile stretch will be widened from four lanes to six lanes at an estimated cost of \$500 million.

The remaining \$217.6 million will come from Measure K, the county's half-cent sales tax to support transportation projects; regional transportation impact fees; and the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Work on the south Stockton portion of the project is slated to start in 2011. Groundbreaking on the Manteca portion is not likely until 2012.

The California Transportation Commission is expected to announce a final decision on the Highway 99 bond fund at a meeting today.

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