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March 7, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
268 Cannon Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Laphonza Butler
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: SUPPORT – Community Funding Project Request, Dixon I-80 Express Lane Gap Closure Project Initiation Document (Solano Transportation Agency)

Dear Senators Padilla and Butler and Representative Thompson,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong support for the Solano Transportation Authority's (STA) Dixon I-80 Express Lanes Gap Closure Project Initiation Document (PID) in Solano County, California. The PID is the initial step to closing the gap between the newly constructed I-80 Express Lanes at I-505 in Vacaville, and the planned construction of the I-80 Express Lanes at the Yolo-Solano County Line. Once both I-80 Express Lane Projects are completed, an Express Lanes gap of 12 Miles will run through Dixon.

This Gap Closure Project will provide much needed traffic congestion relief on I-80 in Solano County, which is one of the most congested trade and commute corridors connecting the San Francisco Bay Area to Sacramento. With this Project, Solano County will have a consistent and uninterrupted I-80 Express Lane stretching between the Yolo-Solano County Line and Red Top Road in the City of Fairfield. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) also identified this gap in the Bay Area Express Lanes Network in its 2020 I-80 East Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP).

The STA is seeking \$5 million in Community Project Funding to develop the Project Initiation Document, a crucial first step for future phases of this transformative project. With the population of Solano County anticipated to increase by up to 24 percent by the year 2040, the STA predicts that this Project is necessary to prevent traffic congestion from worsening. Express Lanes encourage commuters to travel by bus, carpool, and other forms of shared vehicle modes while also generating revenue from solo commuters who opt to use the lane. Due to its proximity to the Port of Oakland, this section of I-80 supports \$244 million worth of goods each year, and freight traffic is expected to increase by 70 percent in 2025 and by 114 percent in 2030. Improving the efficiency of freight traffic along this National and State Freight Corridor, the economic benefit to Solano County is estimated at \$9.42 million and \$4.47 billion for the rest of California

This Project fulfills the stated objectives of the Community Project Funding to grow economies, improve reliable and affordable transportation options, and enhance health access and safety for residents in

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the region. We thank you for your consideration of the Dixon I-80 Express Lanes Gap Closure Project Initiation Document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable John Garamendi, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Daryl Halls, Executive Director, Solano Transportation Authority
Paragon Government Relations
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.