



March 13, 2017

Ms. Susan Bransen  
Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N St., Room 2221, MS-52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California Freight Investment Program (CFIP) Draft Guidelines

Dear Ms. Bransen:

I am writing in response to your draft California Freight Investment Program (CFIP) Guidelines, to respectfully request an exception to the one-to-one match requirement for goods movement projects where there is a significant safety issue. As acknowledged in the Southern California Consensus Group letter which I signed, the one-to-one match is a significant challenge to counties such as ours that have no local sales tax for transportation. However, there are some projects, such as the proposed Rice Avenue at Union Pacific Grade Separation in Oxnard, that have been identified as addressing significant safety issues, and such projects should not be precluded from funding due to lack of match.

The current Rice Avenue grade crossing has been the site of numerous accidents over the years, with the most recent one being on February 24, 2015, when a Metrolink train crashed into a truck, resulting in 32 injuries and 1 fatality. As a result this location has been identified by Caltrans as one of the top candidates in the state for a grade separation based on safety criteria.

VCTC has provided this project with \$1.76 million in Regional Surface Transportation Program funds which allowed the project's environmental phase to get underway, and in 2015 VCTC and Oxnard worked with Caltrans to obtain a STEP-Rail discretionary federal grant to fully fund the completion of design. Therefore, if construction funds are identified this project can break ground prior to December, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Darren M. Kettle  
Executive Director