



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project Final Segment to receive \$40.1 million from the California Transportation Commission

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., December 2, 2020 – On the evening of December 2, 2020, the California Transportation Commission approved \$40.1 million for the final highway segment of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project from the Solutions for Congested Corridors (SCC) Program. This section of the project, known as B7, will widen the roadway to build the final portion of carpool lanes from Novato to the Marin/Sonoma County line. The B7 project will build 3.5 miles of northbound carpool lanes and 6 miles of southbound carpool lanes to fill the gap and complete the overall 17-mile corridor. When the Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project is complete, there will be a 50-mile HOV network from north of the Golden Gate Bridge to Santa Rosa.

"We have been grateful to work with the Transportation Authority of Marin and the California Transportation Commission to secure the funding for the Marin Narrows project. Today's funding is a game changer for North Bay commuters and we're so appreciative to the Commissioners for their supportive vote," Senator Mike McGuire said. "The Narrows is one of the most congested highway corridors in the Bay Area and we all have felt the pain sitting in that gridlock. Finally, relief is on the way."

Judy Arnold, Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board Chairperson and Marin County Supervisor, District 5, added, "What great news that we received this funding. The Marin-Sonoma Narrows has been a top priority project for Novato and for the region. We are enormously grateful that the CTC recognizes the importance of this project to our residents, our business community, and thousands of commuters. This project has required persistent dedication over many, many years and we are eager to build the final connection of carpool lanes through the narrows."

Eric Lucan, TAM Commissioner and Novato councilmember continued, "This has been an amazing project to watch unfold and this new funding signals that much needed congestion relief is on the horizon. This project has prioritized safety and has shown that megaprojects can support all modes of transportation by including carpool lanes as well as adjacent bicycle paths along the corridor."

The previous cycle of funding in the SCC Program also recognized the importance of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project and awarded \$84.7 million for 6.6 miles of carpool lanes for the final Sonoma County Segment, currently under construction.

The overall Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project widens 17 miles of US-101 from four to six lanes by adding carpool lanes in each direction and creates a controlled access freeway, upgrading the highway to current freeway standards from Route 37 in Novato (Marin County) to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma (Sonoma County). In addition to the carpool lanes, new interchanges and frontage roads have been built to remove unsafe access from private properties and local roads. The project also includes continuous Class I and Class II bikeways between Novato and Petaluma.

Anne Richman, TAM Executive Director, stated "We are extremely pleased that the Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) project will receive \$40 million from this highly competitive funding source. Both Marin and Sonoma residents have supported this project through local funding measures, and we appreciate this recognition from the State. We have gotten this far due to the ever-present support of our local and state elected officials, who never gave up. We are now

one huge step closer to the finish line.”

The overall 17-mile project was divided into smaller projects to correspond with funding availability. The \$40 million from the SCC program will help support the final construction contract. The full funding package for this final segment also relies on \$90 million from Regional Measure 3, a regional toll increase measure that was approved by Bay Area voters in 2018. Regional Measure 3 is currently facing a legal challenge which is under review by the California Supreme Court. Funds collected are currently being held in escrow.

About Senate Bill 1 and the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program

Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, was passed by the California State legislature in 2017 and reaffirmed by voters in a sound rejection of a recall attempt in June 2018. The bill provides greatly needed funding for high priority projects. SB1 represents the largest state commitment to transportation solutions in more than 30 years. The projected \$5.4 billion annual transportation investment is generated by a combination of gas and diesel taxes and vehicle license fees.

The Solutions for Congested Corridor program, funded by SB1, provides \$250 million annually to fund projects designed to reduce congestion in highly traveled and highly congested corridors through performance improvements that balance transportation improvements, community impacts, and provide environmental benefits.

The California Transportation Commission considered staff recommendations and adoption at the December 2-3, 2020 Commission meeting.

[View the December 2-3 CTC Meeting Staff Report and Resolution for the Solution for Congested Corridors Program](#)

[View the Solution for Congested Corridors Program staff recommendation and project list](#)

About Transportation Authority of Marin

TAM administers the expenditure plans for Measure AA, the ½ cent sales tax measure renewed in 2018, and Measure B, the \$10 Vehicle Registration Fee approved in 2010. TAM also serves as Marin’s Congestion Management Agency and is responsible for coordinating funding for transportation projects and programs to improve mobility, reduce congestion, and provide a transportation system with more options for those living, working, learning and traveling in Marin County. More information is available at www.tam.ca.gov.

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