

# News Release

January 17, 2008



## For immediate release

One Voice Information: **Brenda Lauchner**, *Public Information Officer, Fresno COG*

Day: 559-233-4148, Evening: 559-906-7594, Email: [brendal@fresnocog.org](mailto:brendal@fresnocog.org)

Friant Road Project Information: **Janet Dailey**, *Design Division Manager, County of Fresno*

Day: 559.262-4109 or Email: [jdailey@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:jdailey@co.fresno.ca.us)

## “One Voice” locks in federal funding for Friant Road

As the sixth annual Fresno COG “One Voice” delegation prepares for their 2008 trip to Washington D.C. in February, news has been received that \$1.6 million for a prior “One Voice” project has just been approved. Friant Road will receive funds from the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill to fill half of the funding gap for the completion of an 8-mile, four-lane divided arterial/expressway project from Copper Avenue to Millerton Road.

The second segment of the road-widening project, from Willow Avenue to Lost Lake Park, was awarded funds for construction prior to the 2007 “One Voice” trip, at a contract amount of \$10.5 million. The first and third segments of Friant Road from Copper Avenue to Willow Avenue, which is partially within the City of Fresno, and Lost Lake Park to Millerton Road which runs through the community of Friant, requires an additional \$3.5 million to complete. *(A map of the project areas is attached. If you are unable to view it, please visit the Fresno COG website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org) and look for the map under the “Announcements” section on the home page.)*

Friant Road is heavily used by commuters from foothill areas to Fresno and Clovis, by recreationists accessing Millerton Lake State Park and the Sierra National Forest, by bicyclists challenged by the rolling foothill loop of Friant, Millerton, and Auberry Roads, and by those who frequent the foothill Indian casinos, such as Table Mountain Casino.

The current Annual Daily Traffic (ADT) is 8,000 to 12,000 vehicles per day. This traffic is projected to increase to 19,000 to 22,000 vehicles per day by 2025. This project will improve regional mobility, reduce congestion and traffic conflict, and improve safety by increasing roadway capacity.

The 2008 delegation leaves for Washington D.C. on Saturday, February 9, 2008 and will return on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. During their time in Washington D.C. the delegation is scheduled to meet with Congressmen, Senators, and Chairmen and staff from a variety of Committees and Federal Agencies.

In all, “One Voice” delegations have been successful in bringing over \$13 million in project funding back to Fresno County.

###

### **One Voice Background Information:**

#### **“One Voice” Mission Statement:**

*“One Voice” unites Fresno County communities and regional interests in a voluntary and collaborative effort to seek federal and state funds annually for projects of regional significance. All projects chosen shall contribute to an improved quality of life throughout Fresno County.*

In 2003, the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) decided to undertake a “One Voice” effort seeking federal and/or state funding for projects of broad community-wide benefit within Fresno County. The goal was to assemble a public-private delegation, select prioritized projects, and then visit Congressional and federal departmental representatives in Washington, D. C. to pursue earmarked funds and grant opportunities. The Fresno COG proposed this as an annual effort and makes a similar effort at the State level in Sacramento.

The message we heard during each of our visits to Washington, D.C. was that we were welcomed and encouraged to return and to continue communications, building upon the broad-based coalition we were assembling. The “One Voice” approach is positively recognized and viewed as a means of assisting our federal representatives identify, prioritize and shepherd much needed projects through the federal budget process. No accomplishments in connection with “One Voice” activities would be possible without the outstanding leadership of the Fresno COG congressional delegation.

Although the “One Voice” effort does not represent the sole advocacy for the Fresno region (Fresno County, individual cities and other public authorities pursue important objectives in Washington as well), it does provide an opportunity to give special focus to a core group of projects around which the broadest group within the county can unite.

### **~ 2007 “ONE VOICE” TRIP PARTICIPANTS ~**

1. **Trinidad Rodriguez**, Fresno COG Policy Board Chairman and Mayor, City of Kerman
2. **Susan B. Anderson**, Supervisor, District 2, Fresno County Board of Supervisors
3. **Nathan Magsig**, Mayor, City of Clovis
4. **Henry T. Perea**, Councilmember, District 7, City of Fresno
5. **Leland Bergstrom**, Mayor, City of Kingsburg
6. **Larry Westerlund**, Councilmember, District 4, City of Fresno
7. **Michael Montelongo**, Mayor, City of Sanger

8. **Rico Aguayo**, Councilmember, City of Fowler
9. **Don Tow**, Mayor, City of Selma
10. **Scott Brockett**, Councilmember, City of Reedley
11. **Russel Efird**, President, Fresno County Farm Bureau
12. **Ray Dunn**, Chair-Elect, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
13. **James E. "Buzz" Burleson**, Chairman, Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County
14. **Jeffrey T. Roberts**, Representing the Building Industry Association
15. **Al Smith**, CEO, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
16. **Victoria Salisch**, Chair, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
17. **Dan Doyle**, Board Member, Fresno Business Council; President & CEO, Central Valley Community Bank
18. **Debbie Hunsaker**, Board Member, Fresno Business Council; Board Member, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce; President, Alert-O-Lite
19. **Ruth Evans**, Board Member, Vice Chair of Governmental Relations, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
20. **Mike Knopf**, President, Quad Knopf
21. **Jill Schwinn**, Director of Government Affairs, Comcast Cable
22. **Steve Geil**, Interim CEO, Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County; Immediate Past Chair, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
23. **Russell C. Widmar**, City of Fresno, Fresno Yosemite International Airport, Director of Aviation
24. **Ryan Jacobsen**, Executive Director, Fresno County Farm Bureau
25. **Kathy Millison**, City Manager, City of Clovis
26. **Jose Antonio Ramirez**, Fresno COG Policy Advisory Committee Chair, City Manager, City of Firebaugh
27. **Frank Franco**, Chairman, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District; Director, Fresno County EOC
28. **Bob Van Wyk**, General Manager-Secretary, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
29. **Richard Fosse**, Executive Director, I-5 Business Development Corridor, Inc.
30. **Lydia Zabrycki**, Director of Business Partnering, Quad Knopf
31. **Jeanette Ishii**, Assistant County Administrative Officer, County of Fresno
32. **Barbara Goodwin**, Executive Director, Council of Fresno County Governments
33. **Tony Boren**, Deputy Director, Council of Fresno County Governments
34. **Barbara Steck**, Senior Transportation Planner, Council of Fresno County Governments
35. **Marla Day**, Executive Assistant, Council of Fresno County Governments

## 2007 Fresno COG “One Voice” PROJECTS

Priority	Project	Project Description	Project Location	Total Request	Recipient
1	<b>Friant Corridor Road Widening</b> <i>TTHUD (TCSP)</i>	Widen two- lane road to four-lane divided road with class II bicycle lanes.	Friant Rd. Copper/Millbrook Aves to Millerton Rd.	\$3,500,000	County of Fresno.
2	<b>State Route 180 - Temperance to Academy Ave.</b> <i>TTHUD (STP)</i>	Completion of construction of the segment of SR 180 from Temperance to Academy	Southeast Fresno County	\$5,000,000	Fresno COG
3	<b>Golden State Corridor Ec. Dev. Infrastructure</b> <i>TTHUD (STP)</i>	Roadway rehabilitation, improvements and enhancements to facilitate economic development.	Golden State Boulevard through Kingsburg, Selma, Fowler, and portions of Fresno Co.	\$2,750,000	Fresno COG
4	<b>Highway 269 Bridge Project</b> <i>TTHUD (STP)</i>	Build a 500 foot bridge across the Arroyo Pasajero Creek	City of Huron	\$1,500,000	Fresno COG
5	<b>Westside Vocational Center</b> <i>TTHUD (EDI)</i>	Build or rehabilitate a vocational training facility to provide trade skills training to low income area of county.	Westside of Fresno County	\$3,000,000	I-5 Business Development Corridor, Inc.
6	<b>Recycled Water Master Plan System – Phase C</b> <i>Interior (EPA-STAG)</i>	Complete build-out of main water transmission lines. Developed in 5 phases – Total Cost - \$35 million	City of Clovis	\$2,300,000	City of Clovis
	<b>Future of the 144th Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard</b> <i>Defense (Authorization)</i>	To assign F-15 aircraft to the 144th Fighter Wing to replace the F-16 dated to expire in the year 2012.	Fresno Yosemite International Airport	\$0	City of Fresno
	<b>Fresno Yosemite International Airport</b> <i>DHS (Authorization)</i>	Establish FYI as an international Port of Entry (POE) with the US Dept. of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP)	Fresno Yosemite International Airport	\$0	City of Fresno - Dept. of Airports

	<b>Mendota Federal Correctional Institution</b>  <i>Justice</i> (Byrne- JAG)	Completion of correctional institution	City of Mendota	Restoration of Funding to complete facility	City of Mendota
--	---	---	-----------------	---	--------------------