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**Contact:**

**Brenda Veenendaal**

**Fresno Council of Governments**

[brendav@fresnocog.org](mailto:brendav@fresnocog.org)

559-233-4148, ext. 219

559-367-5140 (cell)

[www.fresnocog.org/one-voice](http://www.fresnocog.org/one-voice)

## **California Transportation Commission reinstates \$34.66 million for State Route 180 East Construction**

The Fresno Council of Governments is pleased to announce that a few moments ago the California Transportation Commission (CTC), at its meeting in San Jose, CA, voted to advance \$34.66 million dollars in funding for the State Route 180 East project (Kings Canyon Expressway – Segment 3). The project spans from a half mile west of Smith Avenue to just over a half mile east of Frankwood Avenue. Due to state transportation funding cuts that occurred earlier this year, all hopes of moving forward with this project were lost. However, with this vote, the CTC reinstated the necessary funds for this and three other State administered State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Projects, on the State Highway System, allocating \$65 million out of \$71.5 million on San Joaquin Valley projects which had previously lost funding.

Construction of the Kings Canyon Expressway – Segment 3 project is scheduled to begin after the first of the year. This project is jointly funded with this STIP advanced funding and Fresno County’s Measure C Half Cent Sales Tax local funds. Total cost of the project is \$102 million.

State Route 180 is the main east-west highway in eastern Fresno County, connecting the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area to Kings Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Park, as well as other rural recreational areas in the western Sierra Nevada Mountains. The route passes through the unincorporated rural communities of Centerville and Minkler and is important for moving agricultural goods from ranches and farms east of Fresno. State Route 180 also serves the commuter traffic coming from the developed foothill communities of Tivy Valley, Wonder Valley and Squaw Valley, as well as the many residential developments along the Kings River. State Route 180 provides one of the main crossings of the Kings River in the county.

Kings Canyon Expressway—Segment 3 , will realign and widen State Route 180 from 0.5 mile west of Smith Avenue to 0.6 mile east of Frankwood Avenue near the communities of Centerville and Minkler in eastern Fresno County. This project will construct approximately 3.5 miles of four-lane expressway on State Route 180, completing a multi-phased improvement project that has upgraded nearly 13 miles of State Route 180 East from Fresno towards the Sierra mountain range. That is, it will connect with the previously constructed Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 2 west of Smith Avenue. It will provide intersections for major roads, drainage, signage, and shoulders while maintaining or improving access for the local road network and community. It will cross grazing land and intersect with occasional business properties and residential homes.

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[CTC agenda 10/20/2016, tab 85](#)

[Fresno COG website](#)

[Measure C website](#)