



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the El Camino Real Downtown Infrastructure Enhancement project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Atascadero, located at 6500 Palma Ave, Atascadero, CA 93422. The funding would be used to transform a major corridor in the downtown area from a five-lane, former U.S. Highway 101 into a two-lane multimodal roadway.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is in a Difficult Development Area and will support local businesses and property owners as they recover from the pandemic and challenging economic circumstances. Residents and business owners have expressed significant concerns about safety and a strong desire to improve the walking and biking environment along this corridor. El Camino Real connects several community amenities including three schools, businesses, parks, a community center, transit center, a library, and housing. Due to the close proximity of these amenities, traffic/pedestrian conflicts have historically been a challenge.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), and 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Panetta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress