

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0520

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Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves  
Committee On Transportation And Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the US 101 Safety Improvements - South of Salinas Project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, located at 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901. The project location is Salinas, California and Chualar, California in Monterey County.

The funding is designated to create a new interchange, remove non-standard features, reduce left turn movements, and construct a network of frontage roads to improve safety and facilitate goods movement on US 101 from the Airport Boulevard interchange in the City of Salinas south to and including the Chualar overcrossing in Monterey County.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, as the project will benefit safety, economic growth, mobility, and equity in the county. Over the last five years, US 101 through the agricultural heart of the Salinas Valley – between south Salinas and Chualar – has experienced the highest number of collisions, injuries, and fatalities on any road in Monterey County. At several at-grade intersections, fast-moving commuter and agricultural traffic intersects with slow-moving trucks turning left to reach farmlands, greenhouses and, businesses. By replacing a non-standard interchange with a new grade-separated interchange and building a network of frontage roads, this project will improve safety and facilitate goods movement to serve one of the top five agricultural counties in the nation. The population served by the project includes agricultural workers who live in the nearby communities of Chualar and Gonzales.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress