

# PRESS RELEASE

San Joaquin Council of Governments

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## Crosstown Freeway Extension Celebrates Completion

STOCKTON—This morning, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), Caltrans District 10, the City of Stockton, and the County of San Joaquin celebrated the nearly complete State Route 4/Crosstown Freeway Extension Project near the Port of Stockton, one year earlier than planned.

“This is another example of a continuing partnership between Measure K and Caltrans to improve the movement of goods and services in the San Joaquin region,” said SJCOG Executive Director Andrew Chesley.

The \$138 million Crosstown Freeway Extension Project constructed a new four-lane elevated roadway extending the freeway from Fresno Avenue to Navy Drive. Previously, the freeway ended at Fresno Avenue, creating congestion on local streets. As a result, about 6,500 vehicles a day (including 4,400 heavy trucks) traveled through the Boggs Tract neighborhood. Now, with the completion of this extension project, vehicles are no longer exiting onto residential streets.

District 1 Supervisor Carlos Villapudua recalled the importance of the community meetings early on in the process and talked about the safety benefits for the community and the adjacent Washington School. He thanked Caltrans and SJCOG for their partnership with the local community and for hosting many public meetings during the early stages of the project. Other speakers included: Caltrans Deputy Director Kome Ajise; Port of Stockton Commissioner R. Jay Allen; Transportation Activist and Stockton Resident Ort Lofthus; Washington School Principal Olivia Castillo; and Caltrans District 10 Director Dennis Agar.

The \$138 million project received \$70 million from Measure K, the half-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation projects in San Joaquin County, and \$70 million from Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved transportation bond. This project will improve the connection between Interstate 5, the Crosstown Freeway and the economically vital Port of Stockton, which moves more than \$1 billion in products each year.

SJCOG is a joint powers authority comprised of the County of San Joaquin and the cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, and Tracy. The agency serves as the designated federal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and state Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the region. In addition, as the Local Transportation Authority, SJCOG administers Measure K, the local half-cent transportation sales tax for San Joaquin County.

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