

July 12, 2013

The Honorable Brian J. Back  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**RE: VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY  
REPORT REGARDING VICTORIA AVENUE THROUGH THE CITY OF VENTURA**

Dear Judge Back:

At today's meeting the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) directed me to provide this response to the report of the Ventura County Grand Jury entitled Victoria Avenue Corridor Through the City of Ventura.

The VCTC was established in 1989 by SB 1880 (Davis), and as amended in 2004 by SB 2784 (Pavley), consists of the members of the County Board of Supervisors, a mayor or council member from each of the incorporated cities, one citizen member appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and one citizen member appointed by the City Selection Committee. Its responsibilities as provided under state law include setting priorities for Ventura County's share of funds in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the primary source of state funds for highway improvements. As part of this function VCTC maintains a prioritized list of future state highway improvements. This list was last updated as part of the 2009 Ventura County Congestion Management Plan, which was adopted by the Commission July 10, 2009. The Commission updates the list in consultation with its Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of local jurisdiction public works staff.

The adopted highway priority list includes the Route 126 to Route 101 southbound connector recommended in the Grand Jury Report, but due to the many other urgent needs throughout the county this project is a very low priority relatively speaking. Higher priority-projects on the list include the widening of the Route 118 Freeway between Tapo Canyon Road in Simi Valley and Los Angeles Avenue in Moorpark and the widening of the Route 101 Freeway from the Los Angeles County Line to Route 33 in Ventura. Given the need for these other costly projects of regional benefit, and the reduced amount of funds currently included in Ventura County's STIP share (now approximately \$10 million annually), it is likely to be many decades before the Route 126 to Route 101 southbound connector can be funded. Nevertheless, VCTC recognizes the need for this project, along with the many other needed highway improvements throughout the County.

As required by the Grand Jury, the attachment provides specific responses to each of the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report. With the exception of matters relating to the connector project, the Commission does not have jurisdiction over the subjects addressed in the report. It is expected that the City will address those matters in its response.

Sincerely,

Darren M. Kettle  
Executive Director