

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 28, 2015

Reference No.: 4.12  
Action

From: WILL KEMPTON  
Executive Director

Subject: **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT INTERREGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission approve the comments recommended by staff in response to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) draft Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP)?

Caltrans will provide a presentation on the ITSP at the May 28, 2015 CTC meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission direct staff to transmit the attached comment letter, in response to the draft ITSP, that encourages Caltrans to ensure a comprehensive plan and identify the methodology for selecting projects for inclusion in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP).

## **BACKGROUND:**

Caltrans prepared the first ITSP in 1998 in response to the passage of SB 45 (Kopp, 1997). SB 45 significantly restructured the STIP, requiring 25 percent of STIP funds be used for projects identified in an ITIP, and 75 percent of STIP funds be used for projects included in Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP). Caltrans prepared an update to the ITSP in 2013, and the Commission commented on that update in a letter dated March 5, 2013. Since that time, Senate Bill (SB) 486 (DeSaulnier, 2014), was enacted requiring Caltrans to prepare and submit the ITSP to the Commission for approval by June 30, 2015.

As required by SB 486, the ITSP is to be directed at achieving a high functioning and balanced interregional transportation system as well as inform development of the ITIP for programming in the STIP. The ITSP should identify statewide priorities and the criteria to be used in selecting projects for funding.

Attachment

LUCETTA DUNN, Chair  
BOB ALVARADO, Vice Chair  
DARIUS ASSEMI  
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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SENATOR JIM BEALL, Ex Officio  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER JIM FRAZIER, Ex Officio

WILL KEMPTON, Executive Director

## CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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May 28, 2015

Mr. Malcolm Dougherty, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 942873, MS-49  
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Dear Mr. Dougherty,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) considered the 2015 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) public draft at its May 28, 2015 meeting. The Commission appreciates the opportunity to review this plan in draft given that Senate Bill (SB) 486 (2014, DeSaulnier) now requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to submit the ITSP to the Commission for approval by June 30, 2015.

Preparing a plan directed at achieving a high functioning and balanced interregional transportation system that meets the requirements of SB 486 is of great importance to California's future. The Commission commends Caltrans for the effort undertaken to update the ITSP. Preparing a plan that is action oriented and pragmatic, considering both the short and long term future, while presenting clear and concise policy guidance to address the key gaps in the current interregional transportation system to meet the mobility needs of both people and freight is of critical importance.

While the draft ITSP significantly expands the plan from the last ITSP prepared in 2013, the Commission recommends that connections to major seaports and commercial airports be included in the priority corridors to ensure a comprehensive plan. For example, the South Coast Corridor map and priority matrix do not include connections to the Los Angeles or Long Beach seaports.

The final ITSP will form the basis for projects included in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) submitted to the Commission for programming in the State

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Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The draft ITSP identifies eleven corridors as the highest priority for future investment decisions. However, the plan does not clearly explain how projects on those priority corridors will be selected for ITIP funding, and does not specify whether projects beyond the eleven priority corridors would be considered and recommended for ITIP funding. To eliminate confusion and ensure a clear nexus between the ITSP and ITIP programming priorities, the Commission recommends that the ITSP clearly identify the methodology for selecting projects for inclusion in the ITIP.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments prior to finalization of this important interregional transportation plan. Please contact Laurel Janssen, Commission Deputy Director, at [laurel.janssen@dot.ca.gov](mailto:laurel.janssen@dot.ca.gov) or (916) 651-6143 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

WILL KEMPTON,  
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, California Transportation Commission  
Brian Kelly, California State Transportation Agency Secretary

# 2015 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan

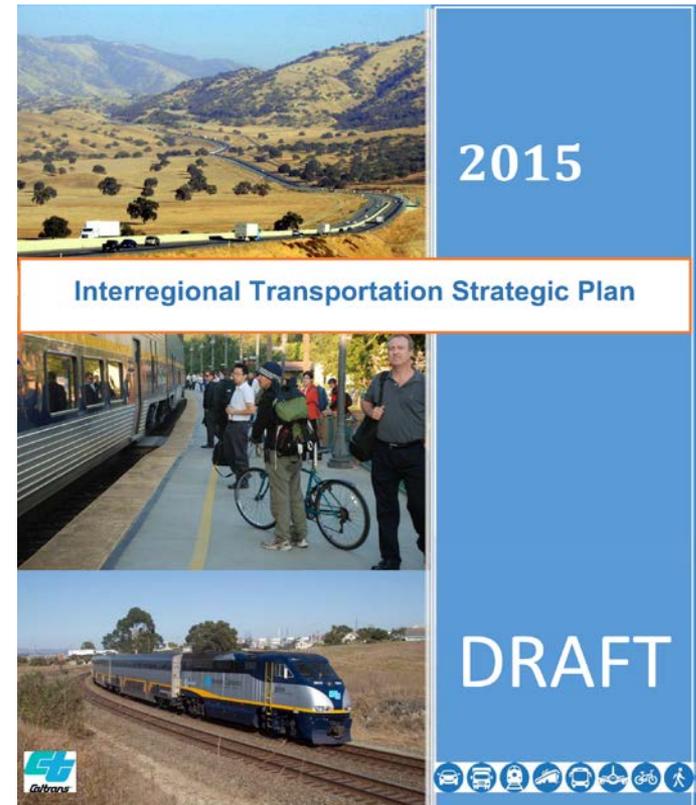
CTC Meeting  
May 28, 2015

Katie Benouar, Chief  
Division of Transportation Planning



# What is the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP)?

- The ITSP is a Caltrans prepared plan that provides guidance for the identification and prioritization of interregional transportation improvements and implements Caltrans' new goals and the Governor's sustainability goals.



# Strategic Interregional Corridors

- Eleven Strategic Interregional Corridors
- San Jose/San Francisco Bay Area – Central Valley – Los Angeles Corridor



**San Jose/San Francisco Bay Area -- Central Valley -- Los Angeles Corridor**

Highway within Corridor	Airport
Intercity Rail	Seaport
Capitol Corridor	Transportation Corridor
San Joaquin	Urbanized Area
Pacific Surfliner	Priority Highway in Other Corridor
Proposed Coast Daylight	
High Speed Rail	

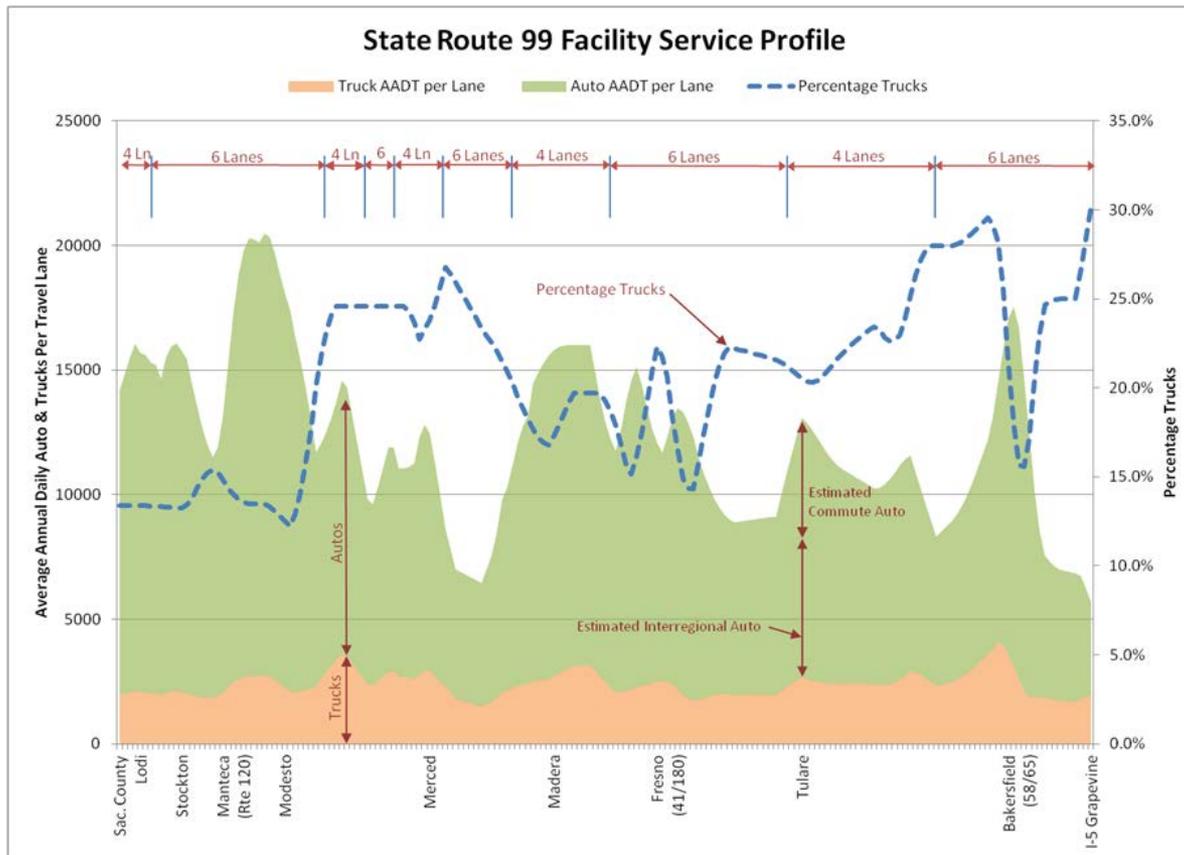
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California Department of Transportation  
Division of Transportation Planning  
Office of Multi-Modal System Planning  
May 2015



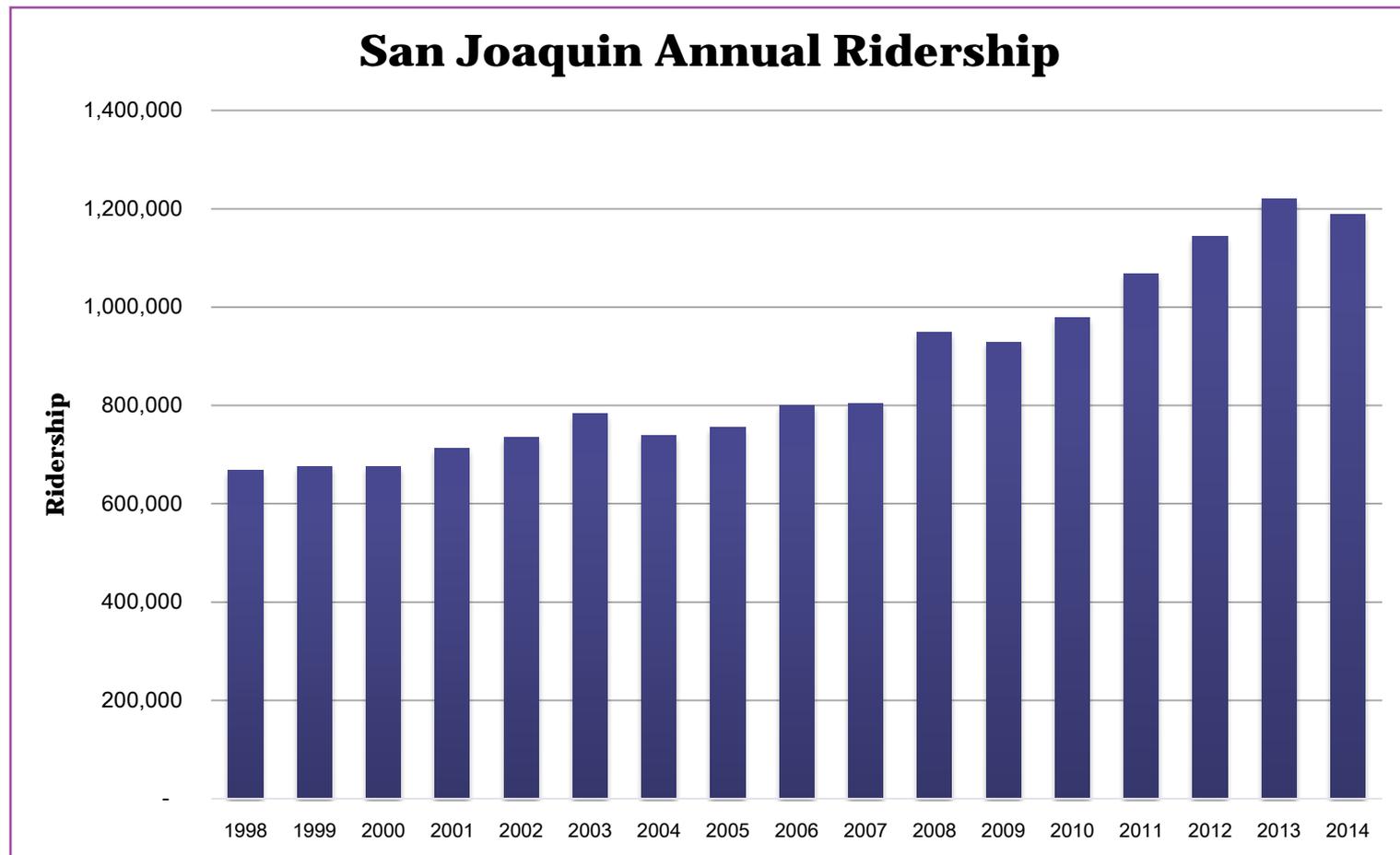
# State Route 99 Service Profile

San Jose/San Francisco Bay Area - Central Valley - Los Angeles Corridor



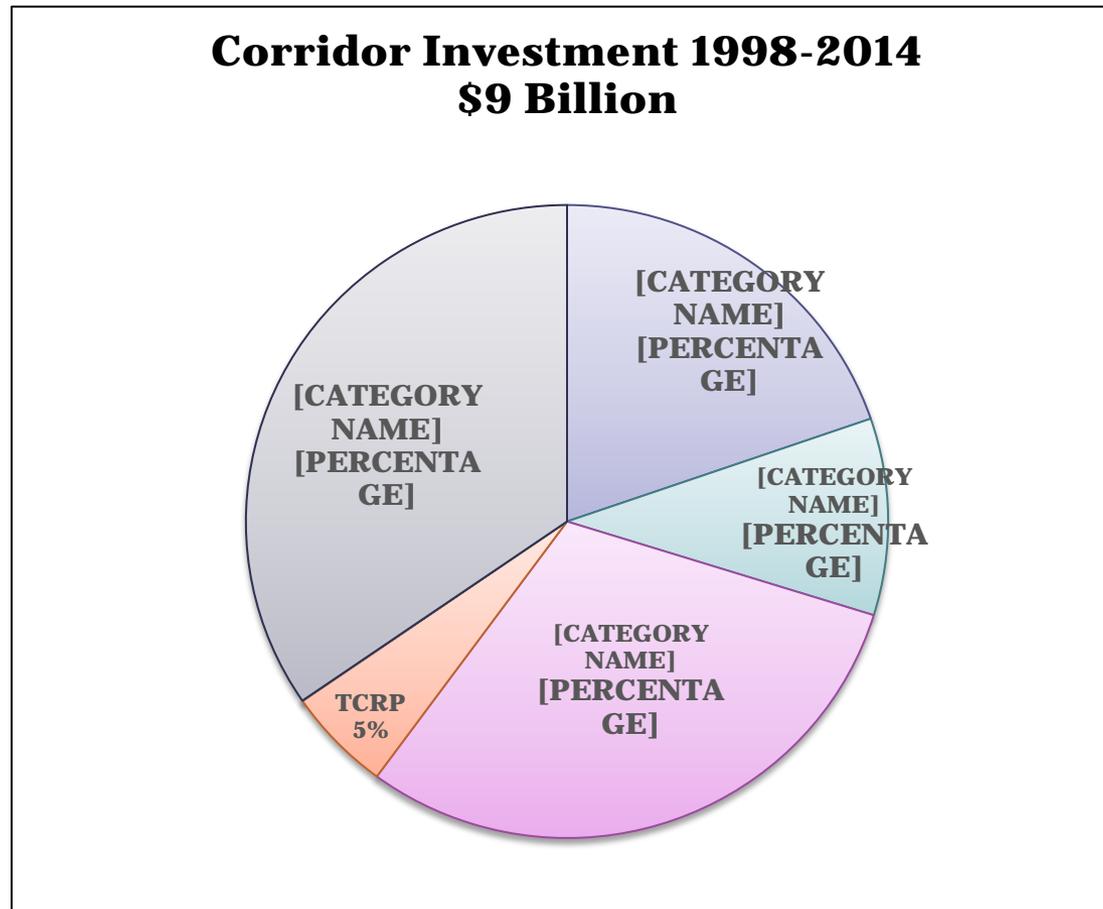
# San Joaquin Intercity Rail Ridership

San Jose/San Francisco Bay Area - Central Valley - Los Angeles Corridor



# Total Corridor Investment

San Jose/San Francisco Bay Area - Central Valley - Los Angeles Corridor



# Connecting the ITSP and the ITIP

- Strategic Interregional Corridors – The first priority for ITIP funding should be for corridors and facilities identified in the ITSP.
- Greatest interregional merit - This is generally measured by the potential for passenger growth in an intercity rail line or by greatest relative truck (freight) movement on an existing highway.

# Improvement Strategies for the ITIP

- Investments in intercity rail corridors that affordably increase opportunity for additional long distance passenger rail trips per day.
- Investments to close capacity gaps along facilities or to widen facilities for the purposes of maximizing freight carrying capacity.
- Facility conversion to expressway or freeway for reasons of cross collision safety, cross roadway agricultural equipment movement safety, and freight movement.

# ITSP-ITIP Schedule

## 2015 ITSP

- ITSP public review closes June 8, 2015
- Final 2015 ITSP submitted to CTC by June 30, 2015

## 2016 ITIP

- Draft ITIP submitted to CTC by October 15, 2015
- ITIP Hearing completed by November 15, 2015
- Final ITIP submitted to CTC by December 15, 2015
- CTC adopts the ITIP in March 2016

# Contact Information

**For more information refer to our website:**

**<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/oasp/itsp.html>**

**Comments and questions can be sent to:**

**[HQ.System.Planning@dot.ca.gov](mailto:HQ.System.Planning@dot.ca.gov)**