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Sacramento County Planning Commission Recommends General Plan Amendment for Connector

Mather, Calif., Jan. 14, 2014 –The Sacramento County Planning Commission last night unanimously recommended Board of Supervisors adoption of a General Plan amendment that supports implementation of the voter-approved [Capital SouthEast Connector](#).

The 35-mile Connector will connect Interstate 5 south of Elk Grove to Highway 50 in El Dorado County just east of El Dorado Hills.

The project's first phase, envisioned to be completed between 2018 and 2023 and estimated to cost \$315 million, will include construction of a Connector "backbone" featuring four continuous lanes, expanded at-grade intersections at all major access points, a continuous path for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians, and right-of-way preservation for the project's full build out including future interchanges.

The project's second phase includes interchanges and additional lanes in some segments, and would be completed in subsequent years as additional funding is made available and demand necessitates additional improvements.

The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to support the County's staff recommendation to approve the General Plan amendment. Board of Supervisors consideration of the amendment is expected in February.

The current General Plan designation for the Connector alignment – six lanes with concrete curb and gutter, medians and parkways – is inconsistent with the rural nature of some areas through which the roadway will pass.

"We're very pleased with the Planning Commission decision," said [Tom Zlotkowski](#), executive director of the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority (JPA). "We've still got a lot of work to do to ensure that community and stakeholder needs are addressed but this is a very positive step toward getting the Connector under construction."

The [Connector JPA](#) also is pursuing complimentary General Plan amendments in the four other JPA member jurisdictions, including Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove and El Dorado County.

The amendments will help ensure consistent Connector design and implementation across the five JPA member jurisdictions, and set the stage for the more detailed planning and design that will take place during the project-level environmental review process.

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