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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Measure R funding improvements to Avenue 416

DINUBA – Improvements to Avenue 416 are continuing, thanks to Measure R revenues.

The next likely major improvement will be the intersection widening at Road 80, due to begin construction in late summer 2011, according to Phil Slitor of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency.

Avenue 416 will be widened in two segments, from Road 32 to Road 56 and from Road 56 to Road 80. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2013, but with cost savings on other road projects, the schedule could be accelerated.

The construction cost for the entire widening project, from Road 32 to Road 80, is estimated to be \$31.5 million, of which \$25 million is Measure R funding.

Both of these major projects are funded by Measure R. Ultimately, Avenue 416 will be widened from two lanes to four from Road 32 to Road 80.

In addition, a local match from Measure R is making possible the receipt of federal funding to replace and widen the Kings River Bridge. Engineering design work is now under way on this improvement, with construction estimated in late 2011 or early 2012. The estimated cost of the bridge is \$26 million, with the required 20 percent local match coming from Measure R.

“Avenue 416 is a critically important regional project,” noted Dean K. Uota, city engineer for the City of Dinuba. “It connects this area of the county to State Route 99 and is vitally important for goods movement for the businesses here. These improvements will also significantly improve traffic safety, which has been a very real concern over the years.”

The improvements are funded through the regional projects component of Measure R. The Expenditure Plan approved by voters requires that 50 percent of funds generated be used to fund projects identified as regionally significant, including Avenue 416.

Another 35 percent of funds generated is required to be used to fund local projects, such as the Dinuba/Reedley transit expansion and Dinuba's city-wide resurfacing of local streets.

Measure R has already generated nearly \$80 million for transportation improvements and, by using local funds to match state and federal funds, Tulare County has seen over \$200 million in regional projects to date – exceeding expectations by 400 percent.

For more information on Measure R, or to report a pothole, visit www.tcmeasurer.com or contact Tulare County Association of Governments at 624-7274.