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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Measure R to help fund improvements to Tulare roads, transit

TULARE – Thanks to Measure R, work continues on efforts to improve grade separations at Cartmill and Bardsley avenues, along with continued improvements to the Santa Fe Bike Trail during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

Design and right of way work is under way on the two railroad grade separations and it is anticipated that the Cartmill project will be out to bid in early December, according to Michael Miller, City of Tulare. Construction on the Bardsley project is expected to follow in summer 2011.

Both projects are receiving Measure R funding through the regional projects account of the 2006 sales tax initiative. The Measure R Expenditure Plan approved by voters requires that 50 percent of funds generated be allocated on specific regional projects. The two projects are expected to cost nearly \$50 million, with approximately \$16 million coming from Measure R revenues.

The City of Tulare is also receiving Measure R revenues through the transit/bike/environmental fund for ongoing improvements to the Santa Fe Bike Trail. These improvements include additional trail lighting, improvements to complete a connection between the trail and the new Tulare City Library and a traffic signal where the trail crosses Mooney Boulevard at Cross Avenue.

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.