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**BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 27, 2007

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**Secretary Bonner Praises the California Transportation Commission for Ambitious Criteria for Trade Corridors Improvement Fund**

Today the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved threshold criteria to be used for any projects nominated for programming through Proposition 1B's Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF). Highlights of the required criteria include improved air quality, project deliverability, and increased mobility.

"The CTC's decision today supports Governor Schwarzenegger's belief that we can simultaneously improve our crumbling infrastructure and our polluted air," said Secretary Dale E. Bonner. "California will continue to set the example through the use of 'green' construction and clean technology in order to ensure the state's continued prosperity."

Secretary Bonner has been working with the Commission and the environmental community to ensure that the screening and evaluation criteria applied to project selection for the TCIF Program are both reasonable and workable. As a result of this collaboration, there is a better understanding among the involved parties as to how the selection criteria should be applied. The criteria approved by the CTC reflect the results of that collaboration.

By reaching a decision at today's meeting, the CTC keeps the process moving forward at an accelerated pace, meaning Californians will sooner realize the benefits of the investment they made when voters passed Proposition 1B in November, 2006.

Representatives from various industries can be pleased with the criteria that were agreed upon. Regional transportation planners will be able to make their project proposals in time for inclusion in the 2008-09 budget process. Environmental and public health advocates can be assured that only projects that provide a benefit to air quality will be considered.

“The voters made it clear when they passed Proposition 1B that both our air quality and infrastructure need to be significantly improved,” Secretary Bonner said. “With the continued cooperation of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Resources Agency, Air Resources Board, regional transportation planners and environmental advocates, TCIF projects will be delivered efficiently and improve quality of life for generations of California citizens.”

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