



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR SEGMENT II OF CAMPUS PARKWAY**

MERCED – Local officials will break ground on Segment II of the Campus Parkway Project at 9 a.m., July 26, 2018 at the current end of Campus Parkway at East Childs Avenue.

Representatives from Merced County, Merced City, the Merced County Association of Governments, Caltrans and UC Merced will be on hand to discuss the significance of the project and ceremoniously kick off construction of Segment II. Assemblyman Adam Gray, who helped secure funding for the project with Senator Anthony Cannella, will also be present at the groundbreaking.

The Campus Parkway Corridor is part of Merced County’s Regional Plan to improve traffic circulation between Highway 99 and the UC Merced Campus.

The \$30 million Segment II will extend the four-lane expressway from East Childs Avenue to ¼ mile past Highway 140. The new segment will include a traffic signal at Campus Parkway and East Childs Avenue, a concrete structure crossing the BNSF railroad tracks and Highway 140, and a traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 140 complete with a connector road. Construction is expected to be complete by 2021.

The overall Campus Parkway Corridor project consists of a four-lane divided roadway extending 4.5 miles from Mission Avenue to Yosemite Avenue. Segment I from Mission Avenue to East Childs Avenue was completed in 2009.

Work on the remaining portion of the project (Segment III) is anticipated to begin next year. The final segment is the largest portion of the project and will extend the expressway to Yosemite Avenue. The entire Campus Parkway Corridor project is anticipated to be complete by June 2023 at a total cost of \$100 million.

Campus Parkway is part of the larger “Merced Loop System” that circles the City of Merced and connects surrounding communities. The Merced Loop System is designed to reduce congestion, improve connection to existing highways and stimulate economic development opportunities.

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