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I-205 widening looks more likely

Gov. Schwarzeneggers \$1.3 billion proposal could breathe new life into project

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Inside Bay Area

TRACY — You might want to cross your fingers, but dont hold your breath.

Interstate 205, the main highway leading to the Bay Area and the most heavily traveled artery in the county, could be getting widened before the end of the year.

With Gov. Arnold Schwarzeneggers proposal to give back \$1.3 billion to the California Transportation Commission in the next state budget, the I-205 project may have some legs to stand on again.

Caltrans could then release the

\$25 million needed to start the project to the San Joaquin Council of Governments — a joint powers authority comprised of representatives from every city in the county, including the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors — that serves as the regional transportation planning agency.

The total \$95 million expansion would add a lane in each direction from the 11th Street exit all the way to Interstate 5, Steve Dial, SJCOCs director of administration and chief financial officer, said.

He said breaking ground by the end of the summer might be a little early, but it could happen.

Something could be happening by the end of the calendar year, Dial said.