



PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration with a U.S. Department of Transportation Act Section 4(f) de Minimis Finding for Impacts to Veterans Memorial Park

(Study Results Available)

Announcement of Open House Public Meeting and On-line Virtual Public Information Meeting for State Route 233 in the City of Chowchilla, Madera County

Chowchilla Capital Preventive Maintenance (CAPM) Project

Open House Public Information Meeting

Date: April 24, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Place: Chowchilla Civic Center
130 S. 2nd Street
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Comments will be accepted from April 15 to May 15, 2024.

Comments will also be accepted at the open house public meeting on April 24, 2024, and the on-line virtual public information meeting on April 30, 2024.

On-Line Virtual Public Information Meeting

Date: April 30, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Link to project page: →



<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-6/district-6-projects/06-0w860>

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve State Route 233 in Madera County in the City of Chowchilla from Avenue 24½ to State Route 99. Improvements would rehabilitate pavement and upgrade Transportation Management System (TMS) elements, including signals, roadside signs and guardrail, and construct complete streets elements, including bike lanes, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant (ADA) curb ramps, bulb-outs, parking bays, enhanced visibility crosswalks, flashing beacons, lighting, sidewalks, and broadband. The Veterans Memorial Park property has been determined to be a Section 4(f) resource that would be affected by the proposed project. Impacts to the southeast corner of the park include a 239-square-foot temporary construction easement to be used for constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp access. Access to the park would be maintained during construction.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show the project will not significantly affect the quality of the environment, as documented in our report called an Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration. This notice is to inform you that the Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration for the project is now available for you to read and comment on. An open house public information meeting will be held on April 24, 2024 at the Chowchilla Civic Center Council Chambers, 130 S. 2nd Street, Chowchilla, CA 93610 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. An on-line virtual public information meeting will be held on April 30, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. For information, please visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-6/district-6-projects/06-0w860>. These meetings will give you an opportunity to discuss the project with Caltrans and City staff before a final alternative is selected.

The proposed project is also an action that is subject to the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303) and 23 U.S.C. 138. Section 4(f) of this legislation seeks to protect publicly owned parklands, recreation areas, waterfowl and wildlife refuges, and significant historic sites from impacts—the “use” of these resources—by U.S. Department of Transportation actions. The responsibility for Section 4(f) findings has been assigned by the U.S. Department of Transportation to Caltrans under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Act of 2005. Section 6009 of SAFETEA-LU allows determinations that certain uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect—de minimis—on the activities, features, and attributes for which the property qualifies as a Section 4(f) resource. Section 6009 requires that a public notice and opportunity for review and comment be provided for projects that are determined to have a de minimis impact.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Maps for the Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration and other project information are available at the following locations:

- Caltrans District 6 Office, 1352 W. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728, weekdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Chowchilla Branch Library, 300 Kings Avenue, Chowchilla, CA 93610, Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Madera Library, 121 N. G Street, Madera, CA 93637, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Caltrans District 6 website: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-6/district-6-projects/06-0w860>

If you prefer that a printed copy or compact disk of the document be sent to you, please email Trais Norris, Senior Environmental Planner, at trais.norris@dot.ca.gov

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Do you have any comments about processing the project with an Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration and U.S. Department of Transportation Act Section 4(f) de Minimis Finding for impacts to Veterans Memorial Park? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Negative Declaration? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? Please submit your comments in writing by U.S. mail or email no later than May 15, 2024. By U.S. mail, send to: Attention: Trais Norris, Senior Environmental Planner, Division of Environmental Analysis, California Department of Transportation, 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, California 93726. By email, send to: trais.norris@dot.ca.gov. Comments can also be submitted at the open house public information meeting. The date Caltrans will begin accepting comments is April 15, 2024. If there are no major comments, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

CONTACT

For more information about this project, please contact Mike Day, Project Manager, by phone at 559-383-5247 or by email at mike.day@dot.ca.gov. You may also contact Trais Norris, Senior Environmental Planner, by phone at 559-320-6045 or by email at trais.norris@dot.ca.gov. For all other state highway matters in the area, please contact the District 6 Public Information Office by phone at 559-444-2409 or by email at d6.public.info@dot.ca.gov

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, individuals who require accommodation (American Sign Language Interpreter, accessible seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) are requested to contact the Caltrans District 6 Public Information Office at d6.public.info@dot.ca.gov or by phone at 559-444-2409. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service line at 1-800-735-2929, Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922, or contact the California Relay Service Teletype Voice Line by dialing 711.

