
State Route (SR) 242/ Clayton Road Ramps Project

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 04-CC-242 (PM R0.1/PM R1.9)
EA 3G8200 / PROJECT ID 0412000434

Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration / Environmental Assessment



Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation
and Contra Costa Transportation Authority

The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable Federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried out by Caltrans under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 USC 327.



September 2016

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has prepared this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the project located in Contra Costa County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency for preparing the environmental document in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document tells you why the project is being proposed, alternatives considered, how the existing environment could be affected by the alternatives, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Please read the document
- Additional copies of this document, as well as of the technical studies relied on in preparing it, are available for review at:
 - Caltrans District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California
 - Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Road, Clayton, California
 - Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, California
 - Contra Costa Transportation Authority, 2999 Oak Road, Suite 100, Walnut Creek, California
 - Pleasant Hill Library, 1750 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, California
 - Walnut Creek Library, 1644 North Broadway, Walnut Creek, California
- The public is encouraged to attend the public open forum hearing or view the document online:
 - View the document online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d4/envdocs.htm>
 - Email the project team with comments at sr242claytonramps@gmail.com
 - For more information, visit the project website at www.CCTA.net/projects/project/97
- Attend the public open forum hearing scheduled for September 20, 2016, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Concord Civic Center Council Chambers, located at 1950 Parkside Drive in Concord. We would like to hear what you think. If you have any comments regarding the project, please attend the public meeting and/or send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline.
- Submit comments via postal mail to:
 - Department of Transportation, District 4
 - Attn: Melissa Coppola
 - 111 Grand Avenue
 - Office of Environmental Analysis, MS-8B
 - Oakland, CA, 94612
- Submit comments via email to: Melissa.Coppola@dot.ca.gov

Be sure to submit comments by the deadline: October 10, 2016

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans, as assigned by the FHWA, may: (1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, (2) do additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Melissa Coppola, 111 Grand Avenue, Office of Environmental Analysis MS-8B, Oakland, CA, 94612; (510) 286-4736, Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, 711.

04-CC-242-PM R0.1/PM R1.9
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Interchange and local road improvements along State Route (SR) 242 from 0.1 mile north of the Interstate 680 (I-680)/SR 242 separation to 0.6 mile north of Concord Avenue undercrossing, in Concord, in Contra Costa County.

**Initial Study with Proposed
Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C)

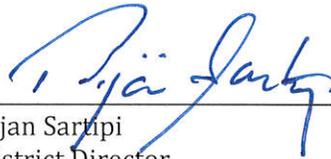
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

And

Contra Costa Transportation Authority

9-2-16

Date of Approval



Bijan Sartipi
District Director
California Department of Transportation,
District 4
CEQA/NEPA Lead Agency

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

California Department of Transportation
Attn: Melissa Coppola
111 Grand Avenue
Office of Environmental Analysis
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 286-4736

Contra Costa Transportation Authority
Attn: Susan Miller
2999 Oak Road, Suite 1000
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
(925) 256-4700

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Proposed Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), proposes interchange and local road improvements along State Route (SR) 242 from 0.1 mile north of the Interstate 680 (I-680)/SR 242 separation to 0.6 mile north of Concord Avenue Undercrossing, in Concord, in Contra Costa County. The purpose of the SR 242/Clayton Road Ramps Project (project) is to reduce congestion and improve traffic operations at the SR 242/Clayton Road and SR 242/Concord Avenue interchanges, thereby enhancing mobility in the area, and improving accessibility to key local destinations including the Concord Central Business District and the Concord BART station. The SR 242/Clayton Road interchange would be reconfigured from a partial interchange to provide new northbound and southbound SR 242 on- and off-ramps. A new auxiliary lane would be constructed along southbound SR 242, between the Concord Avenue and the new southbound SR 242 off-ramp. New bridge structures would be constructed over Pine Creek to accommodate the new ramps. The existing northbound and southbound SR 242 ramps to and from Clayton Road would remain, with the northbound SR 242 off-ramp widened to two-lanes. Proposed local roadway improvements include a combination of additional travel lanes and the extension of left-turn pockets on Willow Pass Road, Concord Avenue, Franquette Avenue, Clayton Road, Market Street, and Commerce Avenue.

Determination

This proposed Negative Declaration (ND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt an ND for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This ND is subject to change based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project, and pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The proposed project would have no effect on farmlands/timberlands, coastal zone, wild and scenic rivers, mineral resources, land use, growth, and energy.

In addition, the proposed project would have less-than-significant effects to traffic/transportation, utilities/emergency services, aesthetics, cultural resources, population, hydrology/water quality, geology and soils, hazardous materials, air quality, noise, paleontological, and biological resources.

Bijan Sartipi
District Director
California Department of Transportation, District 4
CEQA/NEPA Lead Agency

Date

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