

# Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

## State Route (SR) 46 in San Luis Obispo County



### **Purpose of this Transportation Planning Fact Sheet:**

Transportation Planning Fact Sheets provide one comprehensive summary document that captures physical, social, political, and development characteristics along State Routes and provides web links to various planning resources and documents. Fact sheets are to be used as supplemental planning documents to Transportation Concept Reports (TCRs) and to future Corridor System Management Plans (CSMPs).

### **Route Description:**

According to the June 2009 [State Route 46 Corridor System Management Plan](#), in San Luis Obispo County, SR 46 is approximately 61 miles in length and is divided into seven segments. It originates at its junction with SR 1, approximately 4 miles north of Cambria, and traverses northeasterly before intersecting US 101. At this point, the route continues north as double signed with US 101 for approximately 4 miles. In the City of Paso Robles, SR 46 digresses from US 101 in a northeasterly direction, traveling past the community of Shandon eastward toward the Kern County Line - reference map below. The route then continues through Kern County before terminating at SR 99 in the City of Bakersfield.



- Traffic: ranges between interregional, regional, rural and urban
- Access Control: transitions between conventional highway and expressway
- [Functional Classification](#): alternates between rural and urban principal
- Terrain: rolling

**Traffic Volumes:**

- 2015 ADT: 4,600 - 29,300
- 2030 ADT: 6,700 - 42,600

**Truck Traffic:**

- Peak Hour: 2% -14%
- ADT: 3% - 17.5%

**Route Designations:**

- Focus Route
- Freeway and Expressway System
- High Emphasis Route
- Interregional Road System
- [Scenic Highway System](#): Eligible Route
- [Truck Restrictions](#): Terminal Access Route and SHELL Route

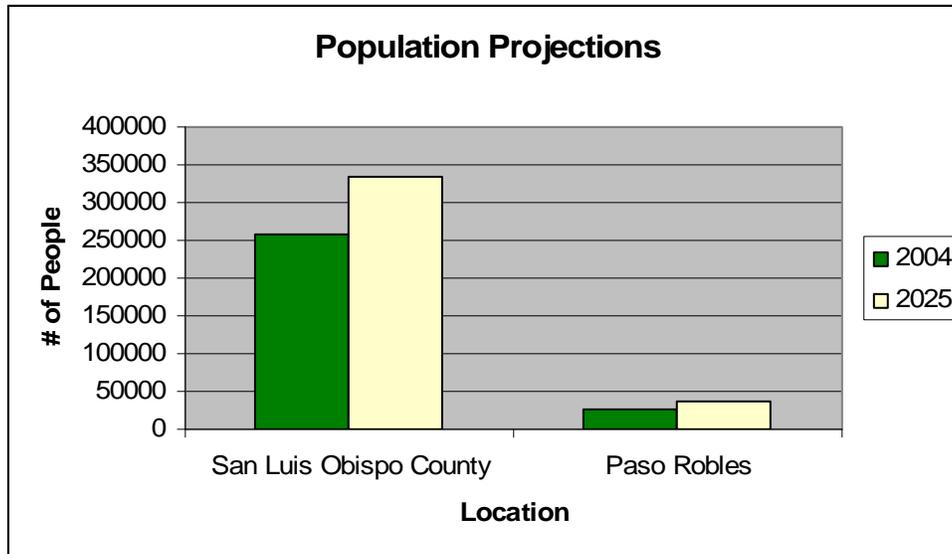
**Future Concept:**

According to the June 2009 *State Route 46 Corridor System Management Plan*, the future concept for SR 46 in San Luis Obispo County is defined by Level of Service (LOS):

Segment	Begin Postmile	End Postmile	Description	Future Concept
1	R0.15	R21.97	Junction Route 01/46W to South US 101/46W Interchange	Reference "Notes:" Below
2A	54.12 (US 101)	57.92 (US 101)	North of US 101/46W Interchange to US 101/46E Interchange	
2B	29.76	32.28	US 101/46 E Interchange to Airport Road	
2C	32.28	34.64	Airport Road to Jardine Road	
3A	34.64	48.62	Jardine Road to West Junction 41/46E	
3B	48.62	55.10	West Junction Routes 41/46E to East Junction SR 41/46E	
3C	55.10	60.85	East Junction Rotues 41/46E to San Luis Obispo/Kern County Line	
<b>Notes:</b>				
<p><i>The existing SR 46 corridor includes a variety of facilities, modes and services that must be managed into a single multimodal system. Currently there are numerous projects that are in various stages of development within the corridor that address some of the deficiencies identified within the corridor. Until such time that a freeway is viable, management strategies will be implemented that will focus the effort to prolong the benefits of the projects programmed and the recommended concepts. These management strategies include: facility expansion, parallel road network development, intersection upgrades, operational improvements, modal options, intelligent transportation systems (ITS)/traveler information/traffic management/incident management, transportation demand management, land use &amp; transportation connection, maintenance and preservation, and system monitoring and evaluation.</i></p>				

**County Profile:**

- [San Luis Obispo County](#) consists of seven incorporated cities. In San Luis Obispo County, SR 46 is located primarily within unincorporated area, with a small portion extending through the [City of Paso Robles](#) west of US 101 (web links connect to the city/county general plan).
- According to the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) 2005 [Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#), San Luis Obispo County's annual growth rate is 1.24%. If this remains constant, population growth between 2004 and 2025 is expected to increase from 258,208 to 334,775 - reference chart below.



(SLOCOG, 2005 RTP)

- Approximately 15.2% of San Luis Obispo County residents speak another language other than English at home (US Census Bureau).
- San Luis Obispo County is a coastal area surrounded by the counties of Monterey, Kern, and Santa Barbara. According to the SLOCOG 2005 RTP, in the 1970's, the creation of new jobs in the San Luis Obispo region spurred an increasing growth trend in the area. Today this is further impacted by the migration of retired and semi-retired people to the area. Additionally, with the population boom of the 1970's, the proportion of people commuting by carpool, bike and transit has decreased, while individual car trips have increased. This trend has resulted in increased strain on the transportation systems in the region, projected to impact the Level of Service (LOS) at specific intersections and worsen congestion over time.

**Bicycle Access:**

- According to the 2009 *State Route 46 Corridor System Management Plan*, cycling is allowed on all public roads except where specifically prohibited such as on freeways. Consistently wide 8 foot shoulders are sufficient for accommodating bicycle use on the segment of SR 46 extending from SR 1 to US 101. The double signed segment of SR 46 with US 101 between SR 46W and SR 46E is not open to bicycle travel. The remaining segments east of US 101 see less bicycle travel than Segment 1, however bicycle access exists.
- According to the Caltrans-District 5 2004 [Bicycle Map: For State Highways of the Central Coast](#), all of the State Highways are open to bicyclist except at a few sections of freeways. There are no restrictions for bicycle use on SR 46.
- According to the 2006 [San Luis Obispo County Bike Map](#), 46 West from SR 1 to US 101 is designated as a Bike Lane Route.
- San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) has yet to develop a regional bike plan. The County of San Luis Obispo's existing 2005 [County Bikeways Plan](#) is intended to be updated by 2010. The City of Paso Robles 2005 Bike Plan is currently being updated.

**Public Transportation:**

Public transit services along the SR 46 corridor include those listed below:

- [Amtrak](#) bus offers service from the Pine & 8<sup>th</sup> Street Rail Station in Paso Robles to Hanford and the San Joaquin Valley Rail Station in the Central Valley along SR 46.

- [Greyhound](#) offers intercity bus service between San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles.
- PR CATS offers service throughout the City of Paso Robles and includes fixed route services on their [North County Shuttle](#) from the SR 46/US 101 junction to the Cuesta College Campus.
- [Dial-A-Ride](#) provides curb to curb service anywhere in the City of Paso Robles
- [San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority](#) runabout provides ADA complimentary service

**Park and Ride Lots:**

A region wide inventory of park and ride lots conducted by SLOCOG in July 2008 found fifteen formal park and ride lots throughout the county. Nine are located in North County, two are located on the North Coast, one is located in Central County and three are located in South County.

**Intercity Rail Service:**

[Amtrak](#) serves San Luis Obispo County in providing rail and bus service from Los Angeles to Seattle. Their newly improved [Coast Starlight](#) train offers an all encompassing travel experience, complete with diner, sleeping and entertainment focused cars. Caltrans [Pacific Surfliner](#) also offers two trains a day with service from southern California to San Luis Obispo. The closest rail station to SR 46 in San Luis Obispo County is located within the corridor in the City of Paso Robles.

**Airport:**

Three airports are located throughout San Luis Obispo County and include: [Paso Robles Municipal Airport \(PRB\)](#), [San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport \(SBP\)](#) and [Oceano County Airport \(L52\)](#). Of these three, San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport (SBP) provides the most extensive public regional airline service in the County. The closest airports to SR 46 are PRB and SBP.

**Transportation Agencies:**

- [San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority](#)– MPO/Regional Transportation Agency
- [South County Area Transit](#)
- [San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare](#)

**CSMP Conceptual Recommendations:**

According to *June 2009 State Route 46 Corridor System Management Plan, conceptual* recommendations for the segments of SR 46 are provided as follows:

Segment 1:

- Providing additional left-handed turn pockets to improve the operations at select locations is the long-term recommendation for this segment.
- In areas where wineries are located or permitted in the future, parallel local roads and driveway consolidation would be encouraged.

Segment 2A:

- The ultimate focus will be to widen US 101 to a six-lane freeway to accommodate projected traffic volumes. Other more specific recommendations for this segment include:
  - Operational Improvements such as auxiliary lanes and ramp metering
  - Reconstruct interchanges to increase capacity and accommodate future widening of US 101 to six lanes as operations and/or safety warrants
  - Improving the regional frontage and parallel road system, with emphasis on intercommunity connections
  - Improving the regional park-and-ride lot system and enhance transit express access
  - Implement recommendations of Central Coast ITS Plan when warranted
  - Improve and promote Transportation Demand Management measures

### Segment 2B and 2C:

- Right-of-way preservation at the Union Road area and local road connections and extensions
- Develop a funding strategy for the long-term vision
- Develop a funding strategy for the construction of individual improvements, then initiate the Caltrans's project development process and prepare a Project Study Report for projects on the State Highways
- *Local Road Extensions/Connections:*
  - Golden Hill Road extension to Dry Creek Road, via a bridge at Huerhuero Creek
  - Wisteria Lane extension to Airport Road
  - Union Road to Airport Road, via a bridge at Huerhuero Creek
- *Transit:* Expanded and/or new transit service within the corridor should be considered for the following locations:
  - Cuesta College – North County Campus
  - Airport Road Business Park
  - Chandler Ranch Area Specific Plan
  - Jardine Road
  - Shandon

Additional transit locations should be developed in close coordination with the Regional Transportation Agency, the City of Paso Robles transit authority, and the Study partners to identify those locations that would best reduce single-occupant-vehicle demand on the SR 46 E corridor.

- *Community Programs:* It is recommended that employers served by the corridor participate in a Transportation Demand Management Program. Currently, there is one such program in San Luis Obispo County that integrates all commute modes, the Transportation Choices Program.
- *Bike and Pedestrian Facilities:* It is recommended that locations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities be identified in the corridor.
- *Park and Ride Lots:* New and expanded park and ride facilities should be considered at the following locations:
  - Cuesta College- North County Campus
  - Airport Road Business Park
  - Chandler Ranch Area Specific Plan
  - Jardine Road
  - Shandon
  - Mid-State Fair Parking Lot

Additional locations should be pursued that would best reduce single occupant-vehicle demand on the SR 46 E corridor. It may be the case, locations for park and ride lots outside of the corridor may be effective for reducing trips within the corridor. Therefore, park and ride facilities within the corridor as well as outside of the corridor should be considered as mitigation for project specific traffic impacts.

### Segment 3:

- Secure funding for the "Whitley 2" project segment (SR 46E Almond Drive to SR 46/SR 41 Junction).

*Note: Reference section 3.4 of the June 2009 State Route 46 Corridor System Management Plan to find more information about currently programmed projects for segments 1 - 3*

### **State Highway Projects:**

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along SR 46 in San Luis Obispo County, click the Caltrans District 5 *Status of Projects* web link: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/pdf/d5sop.pdf>

- For more information about Caltrans San Luis Obispo County highway projects, visit: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/#slo>
- Transportation Projects identified in the SLOCOG 2005 Regional Transportation Plan: [http://www.slocog.org/cm/Publications\\_and\\_Reports/Regional\\_Transportation\\_Plan.html](http://www.slocog.org/cm/Publications_and_Reports/Regional_Transportation_Plan.html)

- Local Agency STIP Projects - Caltrans Local Assistance Website:  
[http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/local/stip\\_index.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/local/stip_index.html)

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