Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

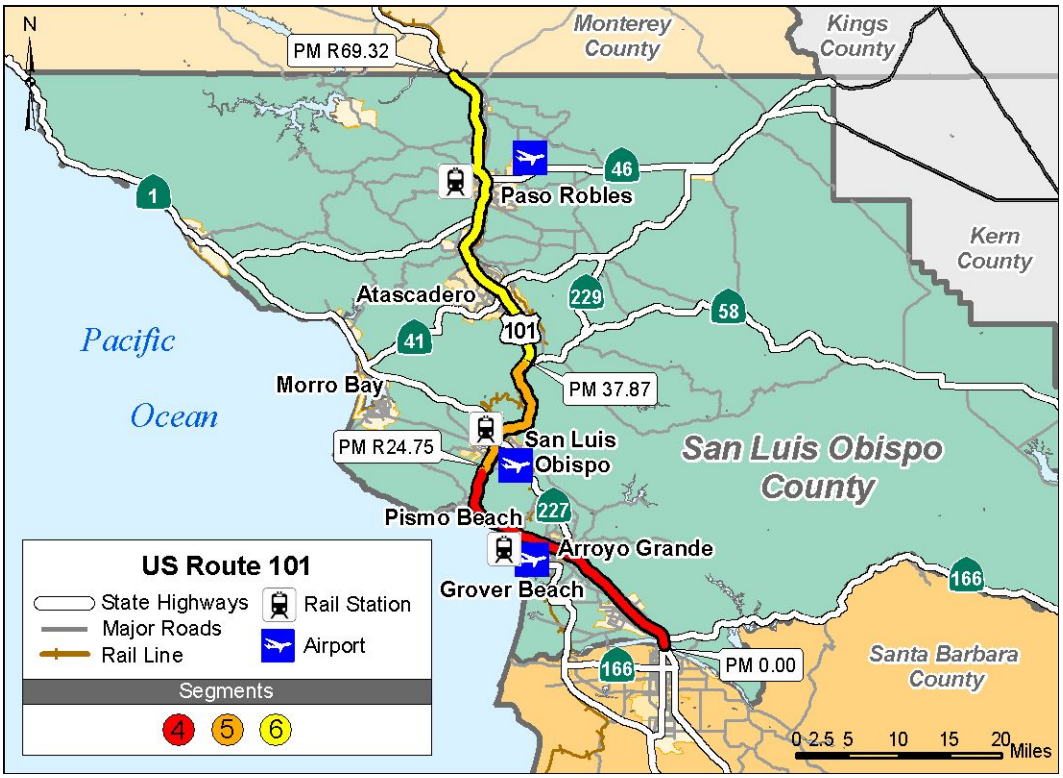
U.S. Route 101 in San Luis Obispo County

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 2001 *Transportation Concept Report for U.S. Route 101 In Caltrans District 5*, in San Luis Obispo County, US 101 is approximately 69 miles in length and divided three segments (4-6). In San Luis Obispo County, US begins at the Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo County Line and extends to the San Luis Obispo/Monterey County Line - reference map below. In its entirety, US 101 extends through California, Oregon and Washington.



- Traffic: alternates between commuter and interregional
- Access Control: alternates between conventional highway, freeway and expressway
- Functional Classification: transitions between urban other freeway, rural other principal arterial and urban other principal arterial
- Terrain: ranges between flat, rolling to mountainous

Traffic Volumes:

- 2015 ADT: 22,100 - 89,200
- 2030 ADT: 33,400 - 122,000

Truck Traffic:

- Peak Hour: 8.7% - 15.4%
- ADT: 7.55 - 14.3%

Route Designations:

- Focus Route
- High Emphasis Route
- Interregional Road System
- Truck Designations: National Network, State Hwy Extra Legal Load

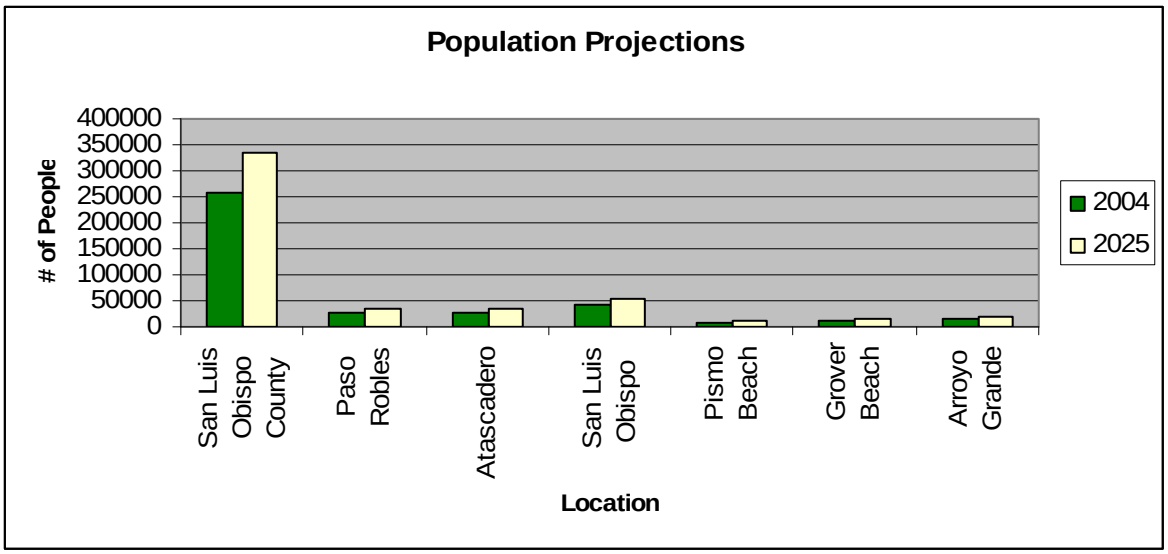
Future Concept:

According to the 2001 *Transportation Concept Report for U.S Route 101 In Caltrans District 5,* the transportation concept for US 101 in San Luis Obispo County is provided by Level of Service (LOS):

Segment	Begin Postmile	End Postmile	Description	Route Concept
4	0.00	R24.75	Santa Barbara/SLO County Line – San Luis Obispo Urban Boundary Start	Peak LOS D
5	R24.75	37.87	San Luis Obispo Urban Boundary Start – Route 58 Junction	Peak LOS D
6	37.87	R69.32	Route 58 Junction – SLO/ Monterey County Line	Peak LOS Dexcept Sub-segment 6C where peak LOS C

County Profile:

- San Luis Obispo County consists of seven incorporated cities. The City of Paso Robles, City of Atascadero, City of San Luis Obispo, City of Pismo Beach, City of Grover Beach, and City of Arroyo Grande, are incorporated cities located directly along the US 101 corridor in San Luis Obispo County (web links connect to city/county general plans).
- 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. 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 and is projected to impact the Level of Service (LOS) at specific intersections and worsen congestion over time.

Bicycle Access:

- 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. Bicycles are prohibited on US 101 at SLO PM 37.8 to 49.3, SLO PM 50.65 to 58.9 and SLO PM 65.08 to 67.2.
- While the 2006 *San Luis Obispo County Bike Map* indicates the portions of US 101 prohibited to bicycle use, areas are designated for Bike Lanes, Suggested Routes and Recreational Routes.
- 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 San Luis Obispo updated their *Bicycle Transportation Plan* May 15, 2007and the City of Arroyo Grande last updated the *Arroyo Grande Bike Plan* November 28, 2006. The City of Pismo Beach is currently drafting their *Pismo Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*, and the Cities of Atascadero and Grover Beach have yet to adopt bicycle master plans.

Public Transportation:

San Luis Obispo County regional transit and local transit services along the US 101 corridor include those listed below.

- Greyhound offers intercity bus service between San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles.
- Ride-On Transportation provides social services clients' and the general public with transportation alternatives including shuttles and vanpools
- Runabout provides Americans with Disabilities (ADA) complementary paratransit service
- San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (SLORTA) provides regional fixed route service along US 101 and SR 1 as far north as San Simeon
- South County Area Transit (SCAT) offers fixed route transit service on weekdays, with headways of one hour or less

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. All three rail stations in San Luis Obispo are in close proximity to US 101. These stations are located in the City of Paso Robles, the City of Grover Beach and the City of San Luis Obispo.

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. All three airports are located within close proximity to the US 101 Corridor in San Luis Obispo County.

Transportation Agencies:

- San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) - MPO/RTPA
- San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority
- South County Area Transit
- San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare

General Recommendations:

According to the 2001 *Transportation Concept Report for U.S Route 101 In Caltrans District 5,* the recommended actions for US 101 in San Luis Obispo County include:

- Implement ITS components from the Central Coast Deployment Plan
- Reduce demand by encouraging and improving alternative modes such as passenger rail, transit, vanpools and ridesharing.
- Facilitate goods movement with projects identified in the California Statewide Goods Movement Strategy
- Construct system-wide operational improvements.
- Ensure any improvements to the facility will accommodate a future 6-lane facility.
- Enhance intermodal facilities and services to improve interconnectivity.
- Convert expressway portion of Sub-segment 4A to freeway.
- Convert expressway portions of Sub-segments 6C to freeway.
- Widen Segments 4 and 5A to 6-lane freeway after above measures have been fully implemented and if level of service continues to deteriorate.

State Highway Projects:

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along US 101 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
- Local Agency STIP Projects - Caltrans Local Assistance Website: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/local/stip_index.html

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