



San Luis Obispo County Bike Club members on Highway 1 at Piedras Blancas

WINTER 2018

# Caltrans District 5



District Director  
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Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

## District Director's Report

A quarterly publication for our transportation partners

### Highway 1 Realignment Completed

Caltrans recently completed the \$21.3 million Highway 1 Piedras Blancas project, which realigned 2.8 miles of roadway to protect from rising sea levels, storms and coastal erosion in San Luis Obispo County. The project moved Highway 1 up to 475 feet inland from its previous alignment and installed parking for trail access at both ends of the new segment. The new facility features widened shoulders near the Hearst San Simeon State Park.

All land west of the realigned highway will become state park land once restoration and mitigation work is completed on the old alignment. Over the next several years, the project will also restore and enhance 12 acres of off-site state park lands to mitigate impacts to natural areas. Caltrans also contributed \$1.4 million for State Parks to construct a 3.5-mile new segment of the California Coastal Trail. The pathway will connect the existing network of bluff-top trails north and south of the new roadway with bicycle and pedestrian accessibility.

Highway 1 is a State Scenic Route, National Scenic Byway and All-American Road on the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route. More information:

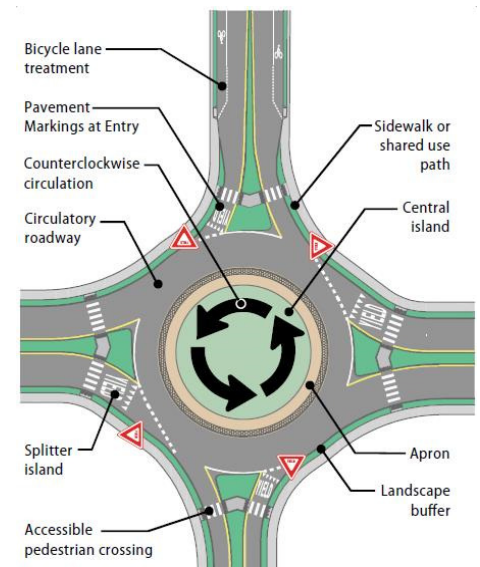
[http://www.dot.ca.gov/disto5/projects/slo1\\_piedras/index.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/disto5/projects/slo1_piedras/index.htm)



### Roundabout Benefits

So far, District 5 has implemented three roundabouts on the state highway system in Santa Barbara County and local partners are planning for more throughout the District. Roundabouts are safer, more efficient, less costly and more aesthetically appealing than conventional intersections, according to the Federal Highway Administration. They substantially reduce the types of crashes resulting in injury or loss of life—from 78 to 82 percent compared to conventional stop-controlled and signalized intersections. Safety benefits include reducing the following collision types:

- 37 percent overall
- 75 percent injury
- 90 percent fatality
- 40 percent pedestrian



Photos Source: FHWA

The likelihood and severity of collisions are reduced as travel speeds are lowered between 15 and 25 mph. The innovative improvement also features a continuous, circular flow of traffic. Motorists yield to other drivers' only before entering a roundabout; if no other vehicles are present, they continue moving. The mobile traffic helps prevent the incentive to speed up and *beat the light* as often occurs at more traditional signalized intersections. Roads entering a roundabout are gently curved to direct vehicles into the intersection and travel counterclockwise around the facility.

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Please Submit Maintenance Service Requests at the Following Link: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/mrsrsubmit/>

## Roundabout continued

The curved roads and one-way travel eliminate the possibility for T-bone and head-on collisions. Roundabouts are adaptable to different locations and come in all shapes and sizes, including oval, teardrop, peanut and dog-bone. They feature small, simple, single-lane facilities along with larger and more complex multi-lanes. They are designed to allow pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time on each leg. The fewer conflict points for vehicles and pedestrians—plus slower speeds, well-defined crossings and splitter islands—result in motorists yielding to those on foot.

At roundabouts, bicyclists have the option to either take the lane as a vehicle or pedestrian on the shared use path around the facility. Recent nationwide safety research has not yet noted any substantial problems for bicyclists. Some studies show these improvements generate significantly less air pollution from vehicles compared to a stop-controlled intersection. They are also more cost-effective with the following benefits: safety, life-cycle, fewer travel delays, reduction of both fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and less right-of-way requirement on approaching streets. More information: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/omsp/system\\_planning/documents/Final\\_2017\\_CA\\_SHS\\_Roundabout\\_Inventory\\_Report\\_05052017.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/omsp/system_planning/documents/Final_2017_CA_SHS_Roundabout_Inventory_Report_05052017.pdf)



## Planning Grants Produce Sustainable Communities

Caltrans recently awarded the following transportation planning grants in District 5:

### Sustainable Communities:

- TAMC – Seaside and Marina Complete Streets Plan, \$361k.
- City of Guadalupe – Mobility and Revitalization Plan, \$206k.
- City of Watsonville – Complete Streets Plan, \$321k.
- Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency – Complete Streets to Schools Plan, \$367k.
- San Benito COG – Transit Network Expansion Projects for Highway 25 Congestion Relief, \$150k.

Safety Compared	
Conventional Intersection	Roundabout
High speeds	Low speeds
Little response time	Situation changes slowly / More perception-reaction time
High energy crashes	Low energy crashes
Unforgiving environment	Forgiving environment
High severity crashes	Low severity crashes
Complexity	Easier to judge gaps
Wide visual scans	Narrow visual scans

## Transportation Asset Management Plan

The 2018 draft *Transportation Asset Management Plan* provides a framework for addressing performance gaps, prioritizing actions and instituting business practices streamlining asset management activities. The main goals include strengthening local, regional and state coordination and improving transportation infrastructure management through transparent information. Caltrans produced the living document through extensive statewide public outreach. It will be regularly updated with performance outcomes and consistency with the 2017 *State Highway System Management Plan's* 10-year project plan. More information: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/assetmgmt/tam\\_plan.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/assetmgmt/tam_plan.html)



### Climate Change Adaptation Planning:

- AMBAG – Central Coast Highway 1 adaptation strategies, \$360k.
- City of Carpinteria – Sea Level Rise Transportation Policy & Infrastructure Adaptation Plan, \$221k.
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians – Transportation Climate Change Vulnerability study, \$185k.
- SBCAG – Santa Barbara County Transportation Network Resiliency Assessment, \$100k.



## Climate Change Vulnerability

Caltrans recently released its first *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment* detailing potential impacts to the state highway system in the San Francisco Bay Area. This is the first of 12 studies planned to cover each Caltrans District. The online report discusses the effects of rising sea levels and higher storm surges, more frequent wildfires, changing precipitation patterns and increasing temperatures. It also provides data to address changes in planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance. Overall, the assessment seeks to guide future planning processes and investments ensuring the long-term future of the state's transportation system. District 5's assessment awaits more elevation data, and is scheduled for release in spring 2019. More information: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/paffairs/pr/2017/prs/17pr13\\_2.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/paffairs/pr/2017/prs/17pr13_2.html)



### SB 1 provided \$25 million statewide for 2017-2018 local transportation planning grants

These successful grants were funded through the recently enacted Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, for maintaining and integrating the state's multimodal transportation system. This funding adds to the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.

## Call for Projects

A call for projects is under way for the 2018/2019 Transportation Planning Grants, which include Sustainable Communities (\$29.5 million), Strategic Partnerships (\$4.3 million) and Adaptation Planning (\$7 million). Successful projects directly benefit the multimodal transportation system by improving public health, social equity, the environment and community livability. Deadline to submit applications to Caltrans is Friday, Feb. 23, 2018. Online applications, guidelines and more information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html>