Highway 1 realignment getting under way

A construction contract is being advertised for the Highway 1 Piedras Blancas realignment project. The estimated $21 million project will realign 2.8 miles of Highway 1 near San Simeon. The project will move the highway inland to protect it from shoreline erosion in lieu of perpetuating rock slope protection along the shoreline. The new alignment will include standard 8-foot-wide paved shoulders improving conditions for bicycling along the Pacific Coast Bike Route.

Two new parking areas will also be added with 20 spaces located at the southern end of the project at the existing surfer beach access, and 30 spaces (expandable to 60 future spaces) at the northern end of the project near Arroyo de la Cruz.

Once the project is completed, the public will have access to 80 acres of land west of the new alignment. State Parks will also develop a new 2.8 mile segment of the California Coastal Trail on that land with a $1.4 million contribution from Caltrans. Construction is expected to begin in May 2015 and be completed in winter 2018. Two additional projects, totaling an estimated $11 million, will mitigate impacts and re-vegetate disturbed areas beginning in spring 2017.

Public input sought on state’s long-term transportation plan

The 2040 California Transportation Plan is now available online for public comment. The plan defines performance-based goals, policies and strategies to achieve the state’s collective vision for a statewide, integrated, multimodal and sustainable transportation system meeting future mobility needs. The updated plan will focus on meeting new trends and challenges such as economic and job growth, climate change, freight movement and public health. It will also develop performance measures and targets to assess the system and meet federal MAP-21 requirements. Comments will be accepted through April 17. More information is available at:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/ttp/californiataxportationplan2040/index.shtml

First cable median barrier installation in District 5

Construction is nearing completion on the US 101 cable median barrier project located near Soledad in Monterey County. The estimated $2.4 million safety project is installing a high-tension cable barrier, widening the inside shoulders and adding rumble strips for nearly four miles. The latter are a series of narrow indentations in the road surface to alert drivers to changes in direction or speed. The project will be completed in May 2015.

District Director’s Report

A quarterly publication for our transportation partners

Prosperous Economy

Social Equity

Human & Environmental Health

Spring 2015

Please Submit Maintenance Service Requests at the Following Link: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/msrsubmit
Cable barrier continued

pavement, which alert inattentive or
distracted drivers using vibration and noise.
The project is scheduled for completion in
June 2015.

Median barriers dramatically reduce both
fatalities and injuries in highway cross-over
collisions. At proper site locations, cable
barrier offers several advantages over the
more traditional concrete and thrie-beam
barriers, including the following: reduced
costs for installation and maintenance, less
time for worker exposure to traffic during
repairs, and low impacts for visual, drainage
and animal crossings. This barrier type is new
to District 5 with reported success in several
other districts. More information is available at:
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/research/deployment/cable.cfm

Third Mile Marker released

Workers’ Memorial Ceremony and Safety Fair

The public is invited to join a special event April 23 honoring all Caltrans
highway workers who have died in the line of duty since 1921. San Luis
Obispo County Fifth District Supervisor Debbie Arnold is the keynote
speaker. Statewide, Caltrans is observing Worker Memorial Day
throughout April. Headquarters’ service is April 16 in Sacramento.

On average, 1,000 Caltrans vehicles are struck each year. Highway
construction is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United
States. The risk of death is seven times higher for highway workers than for
an average worker, according to the Occupational Safety Health
Administration and U.S. Department of Labor. Speeding is a major factor
in many fatal work zone crashes. Caltrans reminds everyone to Slow for the
Cone Zone and move over for all emergency response and roadside work
vehicles. After the ceremony, District 5 will host a safety fair with health
screenings, giveaways and special activities for employees with more than
20 vendors and several local health departments’ participating. Contact
Safety Officer Henry Garcia at 805-549-3358 or henry.garcia@dot.ca.gov.

The third edition of Caltrans Mile Marker is now available online. This
report provides a transparent, plain-language accounting of Caltrans’
performance. The latest edition features Amtrak’s California revenue
and ridership, project funding needs, technology’s role in traffic
management, level of service scores, and recent data on fatal
accidents and work-related illness and injuries. Other topics include
the transportation system’s funding shortfall, the Caltrans
Improvement Project, and an update on Proposition 1B-funded
freight projects. More information is available at:
http://dot.ca.gov/ctjournal/MileMarker/index.html

Caltrans ushers in change

Vision challenge: Find your role

Change is under way at Caltrans! We are
committed to achieving real and significant
changes to Caltrans’ operations and culture,
according to Director Malcolm Dougherty.
We must choose to lead in order to remain a
national leader in transportation policy in the
future.

Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty

Going beyond our new mission, vision and
goals, we plan to measure

our progress as well. We are developing specific data-based
performance measures, which will be featured in the 2015-2020
Strategic Plan scheduled for release in early April 2015. Improving
communication both internally and externally, and telling our
organization’s story better are important priorities for Caltrans.

Speaking at a recent town hall meeting broadcast online statewide,
Dougherty encouraged employees to familiarize themselves with
Caltrans’ new mission and vision statements, and know how they
apply to their daily work. He also noted their individual roles and
tasks are vital to fulfilling the future of transportation, improving
the state’s economy and contributing to Californians’ quality of life.

Some key meeting highlights include:

- Fixing-it-first, maintaining existing infrastructure, improving
  mobility, training staff, and streamlining the highway
  relinquishment process are high priorities.
- Additional investments in SHOPP and maintenance forces
  are needed.
- SHOPP is to preserve the system while accommodating other
  travel modes.