



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Wednesday, September 3, 2014

**District:** 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CALTRANS RELEASES FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR SOUTH COAST 101 HOV LANES PROJECT**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY – The Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment on the South Coast 101 HOV Lanes Project has been completed. This report represents a key milestone in the process of adding a carpool lane in each direction of a 10-mile section of U.S. Highway 101 between Carpinteria and Santa Barbara. This report provides information on the range of alternatives studied for this project, including the preferred alternative selection.

“The certification of the environmental report represents an important achievement in the life of this major project. We look forward to working closely with the City of Carpinteria, the City of Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara throughout this project,” said Caltrans District 5 Director Tim Gubbins.

The next steps include cooperation among several jurisdictions. Because this project exists within the coastal zone, the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Carpinteria will each need to grant a coastal development permit after aesthetic and planting details are refined with local input. This multi-agency coordination will also include the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) which is partially funding the HOV lanes with their Measure A sales tax.

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Both design and construction are expected to be completed in phases with initial construction scheduled to begin in mid-2018.

The Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment is available for public review in the following locations:

- Caltrans District 5 Office, 50 Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo.
- City of Santa Barbara Central Library, 40 East Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara.
- Carpinteria City Library, 5141 Carpinteria Avenue in Carpinteria.
- Montecito Branch Library, 1469 East Valley Road in Montecito.
- Santa Barbara Eastside Library, 1102 East Montecito Street in Santa Barbara.
- Website: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/sb\\_101hov/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/sb_101hov/)

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