

# Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

## State Route (SR) 246 in Santa Barbara 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 [Transportation Concept Report: State Route 246](#), SR 246 is approximately 26 miles long and divided into ten segments/sub-segments. A break in the route exists in Lompoc where the first western segment of SR 246 intersects with SR 1 (PM 9.55). East of the break, SR 246 provides connectivity between SR 1 in Lompoc and US 101 in Buellton before continuing through Solvang to its junction with SR 154 in San Ynez – reference map below.



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

### **Traffic Volumes:**

- 2015 ADT: 11,000 - 21,600
- 2030 ADT: 14,500 - 26,400

**Truck Traffic:**

- Peak Hour: 3% - 6%
- ADT: 3.75% - 6.3%

**Future Concept:**

According to the *Transportation Concept Report: State Route 246* (p. 47), the route 246 Transportation Concept for 2025 is described and defined by Level of Service (LOS).

Segment	Begin Postmile	End Postmile	Description	Route Concept
1	8.30	9.55	Lompoc City Limit to western Junction SR 1 (Ocean Ave./H St.)	2 & 4-lane Conventional Highway Peak LOS D
2	9.56	R12.26	Eastern Junction SR 1 (Ocean Ave./H St.) to Purisima Road	2-lane Expressway Peak LOS D
3A	R12.26	R20.85	Purisima Road To Domingos Road	4-lane Expressway Peak LOS D
3B	R20.85	R25.04	Domingos Road to western Buellton City Limit (near Riverview Dr.)	4-lane Expressway Peak LOS D
4A	R25.04	26.37	Western Buellton City Limit to McMurray Road	4-lane Conventional Highway Peak LOS D
4B	26.37	26.98	McMurray Road to eastern Buellton City Limit (near Ballard Canyon Dr.)	4-lane <sup>1</sup> Conventional Highway Peak LOS D
5A	26.98	28.61	Eastern Buellton City Limit To Buellflat Rock Road	2-lane Conventional Highway Peak LOS D
5B	28.61	30.28	Buellflat Rock Road to Alamo Pintado Road	2-lane <sup>1</sup> Conventional Highway Peak LOS D
6A	30.28	32.12	Alamo Pintado Road to Refugio Road	2-lane <sup>3</sup> Conventional Highway Peak LOS D
6B	32.12	34.59	Refugio Road to Junction with SR 154	2-lane Conventional Highway Peak LOS D

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> - Indicates 2-lane conventional highway with continuous left-turn lane.

<sup>2</sup> - Indicates second of time delay used for LOS calculations.

<sup>3</sup> - Indicated 2-lane conventional highway with continuous left-turn lane except from PM 29.88 to 30.28.

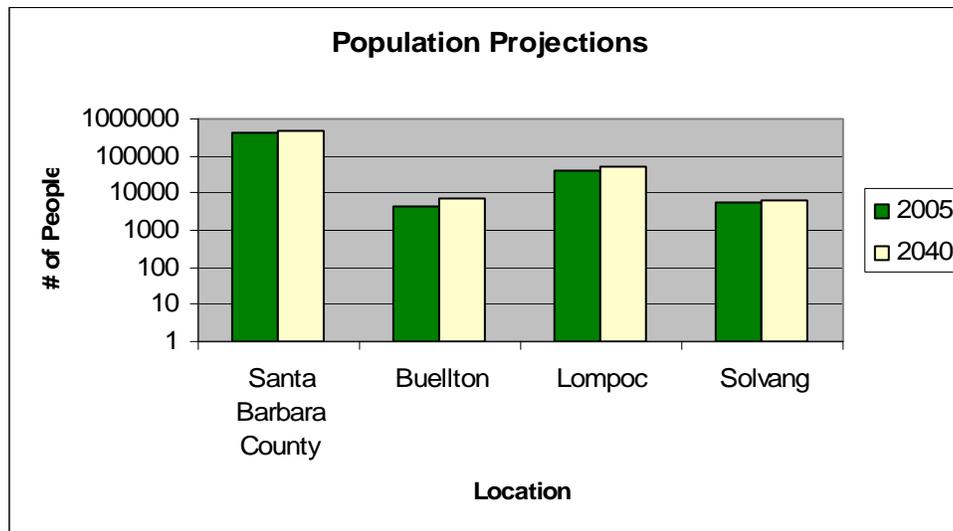
**Route Designations:**

- Interregional Road System
- [Truck Designations](#): No trucks over 3 tons from Lompoc City Limits (PM 8.3) to SR 1 (PM 9.6) and Terminal Access

**County Profile:**

- [Santa Barbara County](#) consists of eight incorporated cities. Three of which [City of Lompoc](#), [City of Buellton](#), and [City of Solvang](#) are located most closely within the SR 246 corridor (web links connect to city/county general plans).

- According to the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) 2007 [Regional Growth Forecast 2005 - 2040](#), 18% growth in Santa Barbara County between 2005 and 2040. This is a projected increase of 417,500 to 492,800 - reference chart below.



(Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, August 2007 Regional Growth Forecast 2005-2040.)

- Approximately 37% of Santa Barbara County residents speak another language other than English at home (US Census Bureau).
- Santa Barbara County is a coastal area surrounded by the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Ventura. According to the SBCAG *2007 Regional Growth Forecast 2005-2040*, an increase in commercial development and a reduction of residential development in the 1980's resulted in a jobs/housing imbalance in Santa Barbara County. This created greater demands on the regional transportation system, increasing the volume of highway commuters from northern Santa Barbara and Ventura County.

#### **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. There are no restrictions for bicycle use on SR 246.
- According to the 2006 [Santa Barbara County Bike Map](#), the western most portion of SR 246 until the break in the route in Lompoc is designated Class II, an on-street painted bike lane. SR 246 from the eastern side of the break until the SR 246/Alamo Pintado Rd. junction is designated an Alternate Route. A Class I bike path, separate from automobile traffic, is located between Alamo Pintado Rd. and Refugio Rd. on SR 246.
- In efforts to increase bicycle ridership which has been declining in Santa Barbara County since the 1980's, SBCAG produced the 2008 [Draft Regional Bike Plan](#). The County of Santa Barbara adopted a *Bicycle Master Plan* January 2005 and Buellton adopted a bicycle master plan in November 1993. Lompoc and Solvang have yet to adopt bicycle master plans.

#### **Public Transportation:**

Public transit service along the SR 246 corridor in Santa Barbara County is limited. However, various providers offer public transit service on US 101 which bisects SR 246 and SR 1 located southeast of SR 246. These services include the following:

- [Central Coastal Shuttle](#) provides transportation from Santa Maria, Buellton, Santa Barbara, and Ventura to LAX.

- [Clean Air Express](#) offers commuter bus service from Lompoc and Santa Maria to Goleta and Santa Barbara.
- [Coastal Express](#) provides commuter service between Oxnard, Ventura, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta and UC Santa Barbara.
- [Greyhound](#) offers intercity bus service between San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles.
- [Sliverado Coast Flyer](#) provides three trips a day with multiple stops from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to Long Beach.
- [Traffic Solutions](#) is a division of Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) which promotes alternatives to single vehicle ridership including walking, biking, carpooling, vanpooling and telecommuting through different transit services. [Park and Ride](#) is one example of a service provided by Traffic Solutions which offers meeting locations for people to park and carpool. Currently, five Park and Ride lots exist in Santa Barbara County with one in Santa Ynez. It is located on the north side of SR 246, 1/4 of a mile west of SR 154. Another Park and Ride lot is located on SR 1 at the SR 246 break in Lompoc.

#### ***Intercity Rail Service:***

[Amtrak](#) provides rail and bus service from Los Angeles to Seattle and 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 five trains a day with service from southern California to Santa Barbara. Two of these trains extend their route to San Luis Obispo.

#### ***Airport:***

Six airports are located throughout Santa Barbara County and include: [Santa Maria Public Airport District \(SMX\)](#), [Vandenberg Air Force Base \(VBG\)](#), [Lompoc Airport \(LPC\)](#), [Santa Ynez Valley Airport \(IZA\)](#), [Santa Barbara Municipal Airport \(SBA\)](#), and [New Cuyama Airport \(L88\)](#). Of these six, Santa Maria Public Airport District and Santa Barbara Municipal Airport provide the most extensive public regional airline services in the County. The SR 246 corridor is closest in proximity to LPC in Lompoc and IZA in Santa Ynez.

#### ***Transportation Agencies:***

- [Santa Barbara County Association of Governments \(SBCAG\)](#) – MPO/RTPA
- [Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District \(SBMTD\)](#)
- [City of Lompoc Transit \(COLT\)](#)

#### ***TCR General Recommendations:***

According to the *Transportation Concept Report: State Route 246* (p.49), recommended actions that are still relevant include:

- Implement Intelligent Transportation System components from the Central Coast Deployment Plan
- Reduce demand by encouraging and improving alternative modes such as transit, vanpools and ridesharing; evaluate potential park and ride lots; complete bicycle roadway needs
- Complete study for best alignment alternative for route into Lompoc
- Upgrade current alignment to 2-lane expressway from junction SR1 to the Purisima Road including replacing Robinson Bridge
- Expand roadway to a 4-lane expressway from Purisima Road to Domingos Road
- Complete continuous left-turn lane from Buellflat Road to Nykobing in Solvang
- Enhance intermodal facilities and services to improve interconnectivity
- Encourage General Plan updates to promote transit and pedestrian-friendly development

**State Highway Projects:**

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along SR 246 in Santa Barbara 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 Santa Barbara County highway projects, visit: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/#sb>
- Transportation Projects identified in the SBCAG 2008 Regional Transportation Plan: <http://www.sbcag.org/publications.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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