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Highway 246 Passing Lanes Project

Sara von Schwind, Caltrans District 5
September 2, 2009
Lompoc City Hall



Highway 246 Passing Lanes Project



246 Passing Lanes Project Team: Caltrans, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Santa Barbara County and City of Lompoc



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Passing Lanes Project Purpose & Need

- *Purpose:* To improve mobility (traffic flow) by reducing the length of traffic queues, or platoons, caused by the lack of passing opportunities. The project will also lower the profile at the intersection of Tularosa Road to reduce the length and severity of the approaching grades and to improve sight distance
- *Need:* Numerous short uphill grades and agricultural equipment lead to vehicles spending 65% of their time behind slower-moving traffic during the peak hour. Safe passing is limited by oncoming traffic during peak hours, and through traffic is delayed by left-turning traffic.



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Passing Lane History

- Four-lane widening was considered for the corridor but the Traffic Projections for 2035 do not warrant a four-lane expressway
- Passing lanes were deemed sufficient to achieve the required level of service
- Passing lanes have a lower impact on the community, since they take up less right-of-way and there is less environmental impact



Potential Improvements on Highway 246

Highway 246 Passing Lanes Project

- Intersection improvements (including left-turn channelization) at:
 - Tularosa Road
 - Hapgood Road (west)
 - Campbell Road
 - Drum Canyon Road/Mail Road (+ bridge widening at SR Creek)
- Realign profile at Tularosa Road
- Construct passing lanes:
 - Eastbound between Cebada Canyon Road and Tularosa Road, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Campbell Road and Drum Canyon Road
 - Westbound between Drum Canyon Road and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Campbell Road, Hapgood Road and Tularosa Road
- Construct two-way continuous left-turn channelization from Hapgood Road (west) to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Campbell Road
- Maintain Class III bike route within the project limits
- Replace or extend 57 Culverts
- Construct a 68 foot long viaduct in conjunction with undercrossings at the Campbell Pond



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Existing View west of Tularosa Road looking eastbound



Proposed View west of Tularosa Road looking eastbound



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Highway 246 Passing Lanes Financing Plan June 2009

Project Component	Current State Gas Tax	Measure A 2008	State Gas Tax	TOTAL
Project Development (env., design)	\$8.3 M	--	--	\$8.3 M
Right of Way (support & capital)	\$1.6 M	--	--	\$1.6 M
Construction (support & capital)	--	\$20.0 M	\$30.0 M	\$50.0 M
TOTAL	\$9.9 M	\$20.0 M	\$30.0 M	\$59.9 M

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What's Next?

- Caltrans will receive public comments until September 17, 2009
- The Project Team will address all comments and responses will be provided in the environmental document
- The Preferred Alternative will be selected
- The Environmental Document will be finalized in March of 2010



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Project Schedule

- March 2010 – Complete the Environmental Process
- December 2012 - Complete Design and Right of Way Acquisition
- January 2013 - Project Ready to be put out to bid
- Summer of 2013* - Project Begin Construction
- Summer of 2015* - Construction Completed

* Contingent on the availability of funding



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Comments and Questions

- Ask the staff present at the Open House
- Submit comments via comment card tonight
- Provide your spoken comments to the court reporter available tonight
- Submit comments by September 17, 2009 to:

*Matt Fowler, Senior Environmental Planner
Department of Transportation
50 Higuera St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401*

*or (805) 542-4603
or matt_c_fowler@dot.ca.gov*



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For More Information

Project information posted on Caltrans District 5 website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/>

or contact

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