This project would add one part-time high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction on US 101 from 0.2 mile south of Bailard Avenue in the City of Carpinteria to Sycamore Creek in the City of Santa Barbara. The project is 10.9 miles in length.

Caltrans District 5 is the lead agency for the project. The Santa Barbara County Association Of Governments (SBCAG) is the primary project sponsor. Project partners include the City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, City of Carpinteria, SBCAG and Caltrans. The project is funded with Measure A regional sales tax funds, as well as other state and federal funding sources.

The proposed project would add one HOV lane in each direction, resulting in a six-lane freeway within the project limits. The HOV lane was a major component identified through 101 in Motion for addressing long-term mobility on the corridor. A no-build alternative and three build alternatives are proposed for evaluation in the environmental document. The added lanes are proposed to be part-time HOV lanes, meaning that they will operate as general-purpose lanes during off-peak periods of weekdays and on weekends. Project improvements for all build alternatives are anticipated to be confined primarily to the existing State Highway right-of-way.

To reduce congestion, decrease vehicle travel times and facilitate the flow of goods and services.
To facilitate a modal (means of transport) shift to carpool, vanpool, and bus travel in the corridor.
Provide capacity for future travel demand.
To provide for HOV lane continuity on U.S. 101 in southern Santa Barbara County, as planned for in the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan and 101 in Motion.

Route 101 within the project limits typically operates with congested flow (Level of Service F) conditions during weekday and weekend peak periods. These conditions typically occur for two to four hours daily in each direction and result in significant travel delay. Without improvements traffic congestion is expected to increase to over 10 hours a day by 2040.

Public Scoping .................................................. July 2009
Draft Environmental Document (DED) release ........................................ March 2012
DED Public Hearing .............................................. April 2012
Approve Final Environmental Document ........................................... Spring 2015
Design and Permitting .................................................................. Spring 2015-Spring 2016*
Begin Construction ........................................................................ Fall 2016*

The cost of the project varies by alternative. The current estimated construction cost ranges from $270 million to $355 million. Secured funding for the project includes $140 million in Measure A regional sales tax renewal funds as well as other Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) funding programmed by SBCAG. Additional funding sources are expected to include a range of state and federal funding sources, including gas tax revenues.
A two-year corridor study that examined all modes and involved extensive community outreach was completed by SBCAG in July 2006. This study, called 101 In Motion, developed a vision for long-term mobility along the Route 101 corridor. The study resulted in a consensus package of multi-modal improvements to be implemented to address future travel demand on the 101 corridor. The 101 In Motion consensus package included the following elements:

- An HOV lane between the Ventura County Line and Milpas Street
- New commuter friendly passenger rail service
- Facilitation of transit and carpool use
- Demand Management strategies
- Improved operations and transportation communications

Each of these elements on Route 101 includes one or more individual projects. Many of the projects and programs identified above were included in the Investment Plan for the Measure A local sales tax program which was approved by voters in November 2008. See www.measurea.net for more information.

For more information, contact Scott Eades, Project Manager by email: Scott_Eades@dot.ca.gov or by phone: (805) 549-3144.
For other State Highway matters, please contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at (805) 549-3318
Project updates can be found at the Caltrans District 5 Project website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/sb_101hov/