

FACT SHEET
**Highway 1 Soquel to Morrissey
Auxiliary Lanes Project**

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic conditions for lane changes and merges on Highway 1 between Soquel Avenue and Morrissey Boulevard and to improve pedestrian and bicycle access and safety wherever possible.

Description:

The project proposes to add auxiliary lanes to Highway 1 between Soquel Avenue and Morrissey Boulevard, for a distance of 0.98 mile. Auxiliary lanes connect an on-ramp with the next off-ramp. The project would replace the La Fonda Avenue overcrossing with a wider sidewalk and new bike lanes. The project would also provide sidewalk improvements at Rooney Street and Morrissey Boulevard west of Pacheco Avenue. The project would also install a raised crosswalk at the south end of the La Fonda Avenue bridge, near the entrance to Harbor High School.

Benefits of the project include:

- Improved traffic conditions for lane changes and merges on Highway 1 within the project limits
- Improved travel speeds in year 2015
- Improved access for the Highway 17 Express bus service to its current end point at the Soquel Park and Ride Lot, by extending the merge lane on southbound Highway 1 all the way to Soquel Avenue requiring no merging with mainline through traffic to reach this Lot
- Improved access for Emergency service vehicles, that would likewise be able to travel from Highway 17 to the Soquel Avenue off-ramp without merging with mainline through traffic
- Improved bicycle access and safety across the highway

Construction Cost: \$15.6 million

Schedule:

Final design Fall 2009 – Fall 2010
Construction Spring 2011 – Spring 2013

Final Environmental Document Available:

The final environmental document has been signed and is now available (as of September 22, 2009). This Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration / Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact examines the environmental impacts of the project and responds to the comments and questions received during the public circulation period of the draft environmental document. Responses to public comments received at the public hearing held October 29, 2008 at the County Board of Supervisor's Chambers on the 5th Floor at the County Government Building at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, are also included in the final.

The approval of this final environmental document means that the lead agencies (Caltrans and Federal Highway Administration) in cooperation with Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) plan to move forward with the project's build alternative, as modified by public and agency comments.

The final environmental document and all supporting technical studies are available at:

- Santa Cruz County Libraries:
 - Central Library, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 - Branciforte Library, 230 Gault Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
 - Live Oak Library, 2380 Portola Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
- Caltrans District 5, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA
- Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission office at 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- Online at www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/soquel/index.htm

The public can request a CD or hardcopy of the final environmental document by contacting:

G. William "Trais" Norris, III
Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of Transportation
2015 E. Shields, Suite 100
Fresno, CA 93726-5428

Or, via e-mail: trais_norris@dot.ca.gov.

The next steps will be:

- outreach efforts with the community as to visual aesthetics
- completion of final design
- acquisition of temporary construction easements
- approval of the biological mitigation
- relocation of utilities
- construction over a 2 year period (2011 – 2013)

For more information regarding this project, please call (831) 372-0862 or e-mail info-d5@dot.ca.gov

