



# State Route 4 Wagon Trail Realignment Project



## PROJECT BACKGROUND

State Route 4 (SR 4) serves as a major east-west route through southern Calaveras County, providing access from the San Joaquin Valley to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Within the County, the two-lane highway traverses mostly rural farmland, characterized by a rolling terrain that supports rock outcroppings, seasonal streams, and natural vegetation, as well as agricultural operations. This route is utilized primarily by commuters who live in Calaveras County and work in the Central Valley, as well as by recreational users visiting the County's many parks, caverns and campgrounds. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) along this segment of SR 4 exceeds 5,000, with the peak volume frequently occurring on weekends, when significant numbers of recreational vehicles fill the highway. As development continues within the County, the projected traffic growth is expected to result in Level of Service (LOS) E traffic operations by 2025.



*State Route 4 in Calaveras County*

While much of SR 4 within Calaveras County has been improved in accordance with current design standards, the segment of SR 4 between Copperopolis and Angels Camp largely consists of narrow, non-standard lanes with no adjacent shoulders. The horizontal and vertical alignments follow the existing rolling topography, resulting in numerous curves and limited sight distance. The narrow width and non-engineered geometry of the roadway, combined with the traffic volumes, reduces the operating speed of the roadway to approximately 25 to 35 miles per hour (mph) and increases the number of accidents throughout this segment.

In order to reduce accidents, improve operational efficiency, and relieve current and future traffic congestion, the Calaveras County Department of Public Works, in coordination with Caltrans and the Calaveras Council of Governments (CCOG), is moving forward with a project to realign the geometrically deficient segment of SR 4 between Angels Camp and Copperopolis. This project will be accomplished in five main phases.

Caltrans initiated the SR 4 Wagon Trail Realignment project with the completion of a Project Study Report/Project Development Support (PSR/PDS) document in April 2001. The PSR/PDS evaluated two build alternatives and a no build alternative. Subsequent to approval of the PSR/PDS, the next phase in the process was to perform preliminary studies and develop conceptual alignments. The project team evaluated numerous alignments and facilitated several public meetings to identify the most cost-effective, environmentally sensitive alignment that was also supported by the local community. This effort resulted in the identification of two alignments, different from those studied in the PSR/PDS, that were recommended for further study in the environmental document and Project Report. Subsequently, a third hybrid alignment was identified that combined various features of each initial alignment.

The project team is currently moving forward with phase 3, Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA/ED). During this phase the project team will perform a detailed analysis of the corridors identified during the previous phase including all necessary environmental technical studies. The result of this phase is the preparation of the draft environmental document. A public hearing will be held to allow community members to review and discuss project alignments and environmental analysis.

The completion of the PA/ED phase will be followed by the Right of Way Acquisition/Final Design phase and finally, the Construction phase. Funding for PA/ED is available through a variety of State and Federal sources including Public Lands Highway, the STIP Regional Improvement Program, and High Priority Projects. STIP funding in the amount of \$4.1 million for PS&E is pending CTC approval and funding for subsequent phases of work will be requested in accordance with the project's programming schedule.

**PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/environmental/projects/sr4wagontrail>