



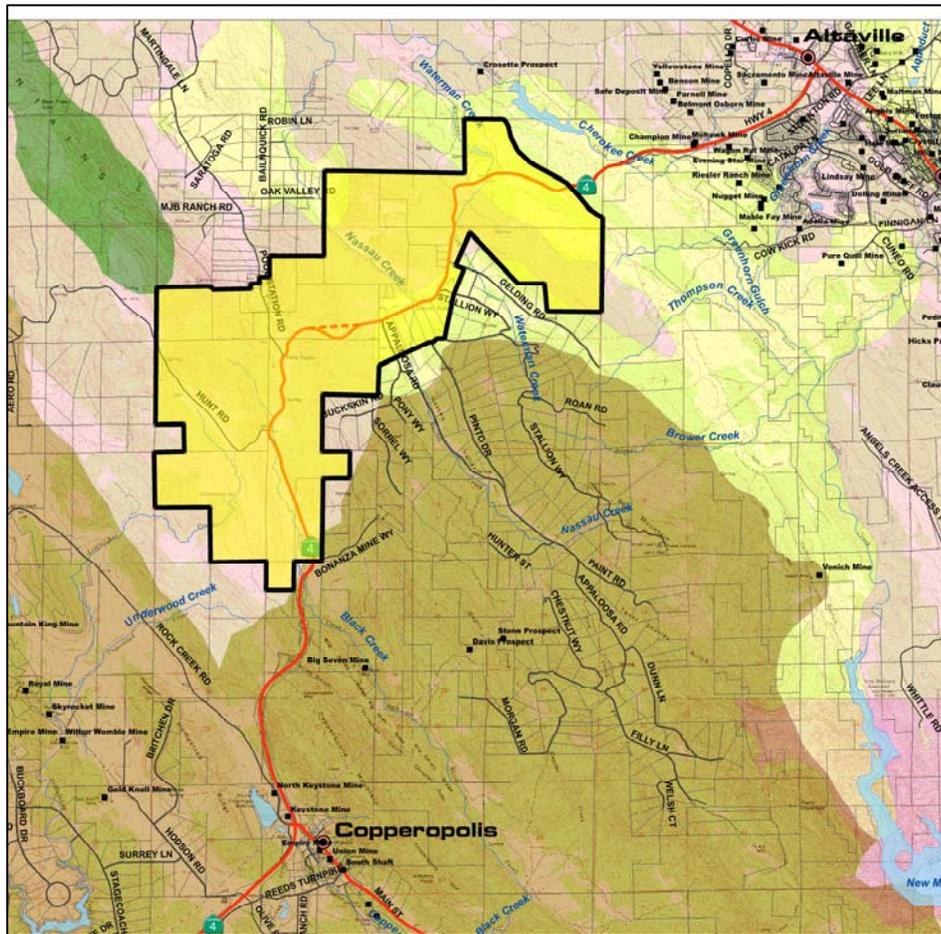
SR-4 Wagon Trail Realignment Project

Focus Meeting Summary

March 26, 2009 | 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
San Andreas Central Library

Introduction

The Calaveras Council of Governments (CCOG) initiated the State Route 4 (SR-4) Wagon Trail Realignment Project to evaluate operational and safety improvements along SR-4 between Copperopolis and Angels Camp. CCOG has accepted the responsibility to manage the project development process. The process will provide the best opportunities for our community perspectives and interests to be heard while working cooperatively with Caltrans, the lead agency approving the projects.



Project study area



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Project Schedule

The development of the current phase of the project – the Project Report and Environmental Document is broken down into four phases. The following is a description of each phase.

- *Phase 1 – Opportunities and Issues Identification (spring 2009 to summer 2009*)*: The project team will review existing information including topography, drainage, utility locations, access points, and other data as well as hike the study area to obtain additional information. A community meeting will be held to share initial opportunities and constraints with the local community and ask the community to share additional opportunities and constraints.
- *Phase 2 – Development of Project Alternatives (summer 2009 to winter 2009*)*: Includes the development of potential corridors that will accommodate the best alignment. Community meetings will be held to share the potential corridors with the community and allow participants to comment on each of the alternatives.
- *Phase 3 – Preparation of the Draft Project Report and Environmental Documents (winter 2009 to winter 2010*)*: The project team will perform a detailed analysis of the corridors and develop technical studies to analyze and refine the probable corridors. The result of this phase is the preparation of the draft environmental documents and draft project report. A community workshop will be held to allow community member to review and discuss the project alignments and environmental analysis.
- *Phase 4 – Approval of the Project Report and Environmental Document (winter 2010 to winter 2011*)*: The final phase of the process will include the selection of the preferred alignment and the formal approval of the project report and environmental document by Caltrans. A public hearing will be held to review and discuss the preferred alternative.



The Project Report will provide an analysis of the potential costs of the project. Based on this estimate, the project management team may apply for funding. Calaveras has



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teamed with Alpine and Amador Counties to pool Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds. At this point, it appears that funding would be available for this project 15 years from now. The construction schedule and extents of construction will be based on available funding.

* This is an approximate schedule. The project team will provide schedule updates to the public when more information is available during the process.

Focus Meeting

On March 26, 2009, CCOG and Caltrans held the first focus meeting with the public. The meeting was advertised in the Calaveras Enterprise on March 17, 2009 and March 20, 2009. In addition, property owners within ½ mile of the project area were sent a formal invitation.

The focus meeting started with an introduction of the project team including CCOG, Caltrans, and RBF Consulting. Then the project team presented an overview of the Wagon Trail Realignment Project, schedule, and community outreach process. Following the presentation, questions were taken from the participants.



Frequently Asked Questions

A summary of the questions and answers is below:

Question: Why does the SR-4 Wagon Trail need to be realigned?

Answer: In April 2001, Caltrans prepared a Project Study Report/Project Development Report (PSR) for the Wagon Trail that identified a need to make improvements to the roadway to improve safety and operations. SR-4 is a major access route from the San Joaquin Valley to the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is subject to high volumes of



Focus meeting participants discussing the project area.



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recreational vehicles. Within the project limits, the segment is a two-lane roadway with nonstandard lane widths, no paved shoulders and is on a non-engineered alignment. Curves and limited sight distances reduce the operating speed on this segment of Route 4. The accident rate within the project area is over twice the statewide average. The PSR alternatives were developed to identify the need for the project and the potential costs of the project. The final alignment of SR-4 may be completely different from those alternatives studied in the PSR.

Question: Why is the project study area so big?

Answer: Regulatory Agencies require that studies be conducted within certain distances from the proposed project. The project study area has been identified based on the best information the design team has at this point in time. The project study area is likely to change as the alternatives are developed.

Question: How long is the realignment?

Answer: Approximately 4 to 5.5 miles.

Question: Typically, how many alignments would come from Quantm and how many alignments would be presented at a community workshop?

Answer: Per the example in the presentation, Quantm will produce several alignments. Given all the constraints in this project area, there will likely be very confined corridors. The design team's job is to study these and focus in on 3 to 6 alternatives to bring to the community. In order to preserve the natural beauty of the area, the design team will also look at minimizing the cuts and fills and requesting design exceptions from Caltrans as needed.

Question: When will the roadway alignment be selected?

Answer: Following the Public Outreach process and development of the Draft Project Report and Draft Environmental Document, Caltrans will hold a public hearing to determine the preferred alignment.

Question: Who approves the Documents for the Project?

Answer: Caltrans approves the Documents; however, this is following the Public Outreach process.

Question: When will construction begin on the improvements?

Answer: The Project Report will provide an analysis of the potential costs of the project. Based on this estimate, the project management team may apply for funding. Calaveras has teamed with two adjacent counties to pool



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Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds. At this point, it appears that funding would be available for this project 15 years from now. The construction schedule and extents of construction will be based on available funding.

Question: How will construction affect the roadway access?

Answer: Construction will be phased to mitigate disturbances to the public. Specific timing and phasing will be determined following the completion of the Project Report.

Question: How can I get a copy of the Project Report and Environmental Document?

Answer: Documents will be made available on the Caltrans project website. It is estimated that the final Project Report and Environmental Document will be approved at the end of 2011.

Question: Does Quantm differentiate between property owners who have allowed access and those who have not?

Answer: Quantm indirectly differentiates between properties where the team has gained access and those that they have not. The design team inputs information based on field walks, record information, and flown topography. The information shown on the properties where access was not gained would not be as good as those properties where access was obtained. Quantm bases its analysis on the available information. For more information, please visit the project website at www.dot.ca.gov.

Question: How will the community be notified of upcoming meetings?

Answer: Notice will be posted on the project website. In addition, property owners within the project area will receive a written notification letter.

Comments forms were also available for written comments; however, none were received during the focus meeting.

Next Steps

Following this meeting, the Project Team will start the existing conditions analysis. This information will be shared at the Community Workshop #1 schedule to take place in the summer of 2009.



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For More Information

For more information or questions about the SR-4 Wagon Trail Realignment Project, contact Timothy J. McSorley, P.E., Executive Director, Calaveras Council of Governments at (209) 754-2094 or Grace Magsayo, P.E., Project Manager, Caltrans, Office of Program/Project Management at (209)-948-7976.