



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: The State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: California Dept. of Transportation,
District 12
3337 Michelson Drive, Suite CN-380
Irvine, CA 92612

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082 (a), 15103, 15375

Project Title: San Diego Freeway (I-405) Improvement Project

Project Location: Orange County, California, I-405 Postmile 10.3-24.1

Project Description: Project proposed would widen the San Diego Freeway (I-405) between State Route 73 (SR-73) and Interstate 605 (I-605).

This NOP is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will act as the lead agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project described below. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is a responsible agency and participating agency under CEQA and is also the funding agency. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for this project. Your participation as a responsible agency is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

Caltrans, in cooperation with the OCTA, proposes to increase capacity, improve traffic and interchange operations, and enhance safety by widening the segment of the I-405 from SR-73 to I-605. Four Build Alternatives are under consideration in addition to the No Build Alternative and the Transportation Systems Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM)/Mass Transit Alternative. The potential alternatives are as follows:

Baseline Alternative (No Build)

The Baseline Alternative represents the "No Build" alternative. No additional lanes or interchange improvements would be provided by this alternative.

Build Alternative 1: Add One General Purpose Lane in Each Direction

Alternative 1 adds one general purpose lane in each direction to the I-405 freeway from Euclid Street to the I-605 interchange. Supplementary auxiliary lanes will be added and interchange improvements made at some locations within the project limits.

Build Alternative 2: Add Two General Purpose Lanes in Each Direction

Alternative 2 adds two general purpose lanes in each direction. Two lanes in each direction would extend from Euclid Street to the I-605 interchange.

Build Alternative 3: Express Facility Alternative

Alternative 3 adds one toll lane to the existing carpool lane in each direction that will be managed together (Federal Highway Administration tolling authority required). The alternative also adds a general purpose lane in each direction north of Euclid Street to I-605.

Build Alternative 4: Localized Improvements

Alternative 4 provides an additional general purpose lane at various locations and improves various interchanges from Euclid Street to I-605.

The Transportation Systems Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM)/ Mass Transit Alternative

The TSM/TDM/Mass Transit Alternative includes activities that will maximize the efficiency of the present highway system and expand travelers' transportation choices in terms of travel time, route, quality, and convenience. It involves low-cost operational improvements, rather than major capital projects, including but not limited to auxiliary lanes, ramp metering, ridesharing, and traffic signal timing optimization.

This Notice is to inform you that the environmental document will analyze factors that include, but are not limited to, the following: aesthetics, cultural resources, biological resources, hazardous wastes and materials, public services and facilities, water quality, floodplain, noise, air quality, recreation, community impacts, and transportation/traffic. Some of these alternatives may have impacts on the above mentioned resources, as well as on water quality, cultural resources, parks/recreation facilities, and community character and cohesion; the environmental documentation process will assess for potential impacts and suggest ways to reduce or mitigate them.

A project location map is attached.

A copy of the Initial Study (is) (is not) attached.

Four scoping meetings will be held to provide interested parties the opportunity to learn about the proposed project alternatives and to submit written comments to assist the project team in preparing the environmental document. The details of the meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday, September 22, 2009 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Fountain Valley Senior and Community Center, 17967 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708
- Wednesday, September 23, 2009 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Huntington Beach Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
- Wednesday, September 30, 2009 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Westminster Community Center - A/B Room, 8200 Westminster Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683

- Thursday, October 01, 2009 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Rush Park Auditorium, 3021 Blume Drive, Rossmoor, CA 90720

Your response must be sent by October 8, 2009.

Please direct your response to Smita Deshpande, Branch Chief, Caltrans-District 12, "Attn: 405 Scoping", at 2201 Dupont Drive, Suite 200., Irvine, CA 92612. Your comments may also be emailed to 405scoping.parsons@parsons.com. If you have any questions you may call Smita Deshpande at (949) 724-2000. Please supply us with the name for a contact person in your agency.

This document is available at www.octa.net/405improvement and <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist12/405/index.htm>.

Date Aug 26, 2009

Signature Smita Deshpande
Title Senior Environmental Planner