

# North Connector Project

SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
DISTRICT 4 04-SOL-12W KP 3.2/4.5 (PM 2.0/2.8)  
04-SOL-80 KP 26 (PM 16.15)  
04-SOL-12E KP L3.2/L3.6 (PM L2.0/L2.25)  
EA 04-0A5200

## Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration / Environmental Assessment



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
Solano Transportation Authority and the  
State of California Department of Transportation



## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

### **What's in this document?**

This Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the proposed project, has been prepared for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) with assistance from Caltrans. The document explains why the project is being proposed, alternatives for the project, the existing environment in the project area, the potential impacts that would result from the alternative, and the proposed avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures.

### **What you should do:**

- Please review this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. Additional copies of this document as well as the technical studies are available for review at the Solano Transportation Authority, One Harbor Center, Suite 130, Suisun City, CA 94585 and at Caltrans District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project or the analysis contained in this document, please attend the public hearing that will be held at Nelda Mundy Elementary School, 570 Vintage Valley Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534 from 6 to 8 PM on the 14th of December 2006 and/or send your written comments to the Department by the deadline December 29, 2006.
- Submit comments via postal mail to:  

Solano Transportation Authority, North Connector Project  
One Harbor Center, Suite 130  
Suisun City, CA 94585
- Submit comments via email to [jadams@sta-snci.com](mailto:jadams@sta-snci.com).
- Submit comments by the deadline: December 29, 2006

### **What happens next:**

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, STA and the Federal Highway Administration may: (1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, the Department could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to STA.

**NORTH CONNECTOR PROJECT  
INITIAL STUDY WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code  
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Federal Highway Administration  
Federal Lead Agency

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation  
Technical Assistance to FHWA

SOLANO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
State Lead Agency

August 24, 2006

Date

Daryl K. Halls

Daryl Halls  
Executive Director  
Solano Transportation Authority

August 25, 2006

Date

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Melanie Brent  
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Office of Environmental Analysis  
California Department of Transportation

September 6, 2006

Date

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Gene K. Fong  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

**Solano Transportation Authority**

SCH Number: 2003032007

04-SOL-12WKP 3.2/4.5 (PM 2.0/2.8)

04-SOL-80 KP 26 (PM 16.15)

04-SOL-12E KP L3.2/L3.6 (PM L2.0/L2.25)

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## **Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code and 49 U.S.C.303

### ***Project Description***

The North Connector project is located immediately north of I80 in the vicinity of the I80/680/SR12 interchange area in the City of Fairfield and Solano County, CA. The project would provide additional East/West transportation capacity north of I80 for local traffic which would in turn reduce congestion on I80.

The North Connector Project begins at the junction of SR12 West and Red Top Road and then proceeds along the north side of I-80, connecting to the existing four-lane Business Center Drive. Between Green Valley Road and Suisun Valley Road, the North Connector would use the existing Business Center Drive. No improvements to Business Center Drive would be necessary in this area. Where Business Center Drive connects with Mangels Boulevard, the Project would reconstruct this intersection to align the main flow of traffic along Business Center Drive.

A portion of new roadway is planned to be constructed from the intersection of Mangels Boulevard and Suisun Valley Road to the east to Suisun Creek as part of a recently approved local development project (Fairfield Corporate Commons Project). The City of Fairfield recently certified the Fairfield Corporate Commons Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA and approved this project (August 2005). The North Connector Project would extend this new roadway to the east, across Suisun Creek, and connect with Abernathy Road at the I-80/Abernathy Road interchange.

### ***Determination***

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is the Solano Transportation Authority's intent to adopt a MND for this project. This does not mean that the Solano Transportation Authority's decision regarding the project is final. This MND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

The Solano Transportation Authority has prepared an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, and determined from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The project will not have a significant effect on topography or erosion, or increase the potential for geologic or seismic hazards.
- There will be no significant impacts on air, water quality, or hazardous waste, nor would the project significantly change the rate of use of any natural resource.
- The project will not significantly affect floodplains, wetlands, or riparian vegetation, compensatory mitigation is included for wetland impacts.
- There will be no significant impact on fish and wildlife, endangered species, and habitat.
- There will be no significant impact on agricultural resources.
- There will be no significant impact on public facilities, neighborhoods, housing, business, economy, or employment of the area.
- The project will not have a significant effect on land use and growth.
- Overall, there will be no significant adverse effects on traffic.
- There will be no significant effect on cultural resources, recreation, parkland, or open space.
- The project would have no significantly adverse effect on visual/aesthetic quality or noise.

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Daryl Halls  
Executive Director  
Solano Transportation Authority

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Date