

**Independence 4-Lane 09-21480\_**  
**Project Development Team Meeting**  
**October 17, 2001**

Self-introductions took place and the following people were in attendance: Tim Shultz, Project Manager; Jeff Jewett, Inyo County Local Transportation Commission; Mike Donahue and Juergen Vespermann, Environmental; Butch Hambleton, Inyo County Board of Supervisors 4<sup>th</sup> District; Mark Dossey and Bob Pingel, Right of Way; Arlene Grider, Independence Economic Development; R. Steve Miller, Landscape Architecture; Terry Williams and Dale Schmidt, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Bishop; Robin Moxley, LADWP Real Estate; Daniel J. Miller, Jr., LADWP –Independence; Nancy Masters, Independence Civic Club; Craig Holste, Program/Project Management; Ryan Dermody, Planning; Bryan Winzenread, Traffic Operations; Karen Taylor and Malissa Smith, Design; Paul Gennaro, Project Management Liaison; Andrea Loven, Program/Project Management (scribe).

Tim Shultz reviewed the cost, scope and schedule of the project. We are still looking at \$19 million for a construction estimate and the current schedule is:

PA & ED      10/2002  
Construction   3/2006

The original PA & ED date was 3/2002, but a delay was requested for the environmental document. The original construction date was June of 2005, but it has been revised to 12/2005, and after today's meeting, the December 2005 date may get changed. Nothing is programmed for the milestones past PA & ED, however we want to hold these dates if at all possible. We are currently working on the Draft Environmental Document. The scope is unchanged; two alternatives are still being considered.

Mike Donahue stated that the project approval date for the Final Environmental Document is anticipated to be 10/2003. All environmental documents on cultural studies have to go through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Both of these agencies are experiencing extensive delays in reviewing projects due to being overwhelmed by Caltrans Transportation Projects. In addition, one of FHWA's reviewers has been called into military service. FHWA is doing the best they can, but the process is slow. Caltrans is now waiting on FHWA review. Design and Right of Way support are in the 2002 STIP, and if approved will be available.

The two alternatives have insignificant changes to Right of Way. Several utilities have to be moved on this project and the question was asked if the utilities could be moved prior to the completion of the Environmental document.

Tim stated that we have approximately one year after the PA & ED date to deliver Right of Way. The Ready to List (RTL) date is currently slated for 10/2005, with construction starting in 3/06. Three utilities are involved: Department of Water and Power (DWP), Cable, and Verizon. There is quite a bit to do at the south and north ends of the project. Right of Way has been out there and looked at it and stated that DWP, Verizon, and Cable will be relocated, probably in that order. When the final Environmental Document is complete, utility relocation contracts can be issued. In the worst-case scenario, Right of Way may take 24 months, but hopefully everything can be completed within one year. Under the revised schedule, it should be ready to list in 7/2005.

## Independence 4-Lane Project Development Team Meeting

October 17, 2001

Page 2 of 4

Discussion ensued about whether or not another public meeting should be called on this project to keep everyone informed since it is being delayed. The Draft Environmental Document with alternatives is reviewed by the public, and the only reason to have a public meeting would be to update the public, which can be accomplished through the website ([www.dot.ca.gov/dist9](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist9)) on the project, or through a newsletter. The public can still address design issues at this point.

The alternatives on the project are:

1. Five Lanes with a center lane and no parking
2. Four Lanes with no center lane and parking
3. No Build

At this time, alternatives 1 and 2 will likely be identical until they are striped. The northern boundary of the Independence 4-Lane project is at the southern end of the 4-lane section at Fort Independence. The southern boundary is the northern end of Manzanar.

### PDT Member Issues:

Juergen Vespermann: Asked if concrete would be used in Independence? Tim stated that it was still planned to be PC concrete in town. R. Steve Miller asked if the noise factor is louder for trucks with concrete being used in town, and staff relayed that at low speeds of 25-35 mph Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) is not a problem opposed to Asphalt Concrete (AC). Concrete production (AC or PC) in the Right of Way needs to be addressed in the bid documents.

Mike Donahue: Suggested that two or three staging sites for the Contractor should be identified.

Malissa Smith: Stated that she is still working on the cross section that Lynn Riley, Senior Environmental Planner has requested for November.

Butch Hambleton: Stated that Carson-Colorado is proposing to lay track at the south end of Independence with some sort of railroad museum. At the north end of Independence, Dehy Park is looking at enlarging the park with a Visitor's Center. Staff stated that Caltrans is purchasing some areas for sidewalk at the park and relayed that unfortunately some of the trees will have to be removed for the project.

Jeff Jewett: Stated that they haven't received any plans from Carson-Colorado yet. He mentioned diagonal parking being used on a couple of side streets in conjunction with the Justice Center building where the old Sheriff's Office building is now.

Mazourka Canyon and Highway 395 will be realigned to allow trucks to get through this area easier. Butch Hambleton stated that 1400 acres of private property on the east side of Mazourka Canyon Road are slated for development, but he is not sure what kind of development.

Craig Holste: Asked when we would meet again. The team decided to meet after the Draft Environmental Document was complete (August 2002), unless something comes up sooner that would require a meeting.

## Independence 4-Lane Project Development Team Meeting

October 17, 2001

Page 3 of 4

Design is currently working on getting the maps to right of way engineering by 10/02. Right of Way stated that under grounding utilities at the north end of the project would cost approximately \$500 a foot. We want to try and eliminate the eyesore coming into Independence.

Arlene Grider: Asked if the meeting between Planning, Right of Way, and the Director ever took place on this project. Tim Shultz stated that it hadn't, but that nothing had changed on the project, and that Caltrans was still going ahead with the current need and purpose. She also asked about the sidewalk and the trees. Tim stated that unfortunately some of the trees have to be removed for construction of the 4-Lane. Arlene stated that some of the bushy trees on the east side of the project limit site lines and that residents could start planting trees further back. She stated that she is in favor of sidewalks on both sides north of the park and stated that with the archeological/cultural studies being done that Independence could possibly be designated a Historic District. She asked if this would delay Caltrans, and was told that it would not. Arlene presented some statistics on the accident history in Independence. She was of the opinion that out of the nine accidents, only one would have been prevented if a left turn lane had been present. She expressed her concern about the elk in the area of the Fish Springs Construction project eating the sterile rice straw in the construction area and possibly becoming hazards to drivers. Staff stated that they were not concerned since the alfalfa field provided a much better diet for the elk.

Nancy Masters: Stated the concerns of the Independence Civic Club. They want a curb, but no sidewalk, north of the Park; they want to minimize the vegetation disturbance at the north end of town; utilize the minimum lane widths to minimize impacts to resident's yards; install city street lighting out of the 30's era on the main corridor in the business core area along Highway 395 (basically from Payne to Main Street); install street landscaping (planters, etc.); and requested that a stop light at Market and Highway 395 be installed. She stated that the Independence Civic Club is in favor of the 5<sup>th</sup> lane alternative and wants Caltrans to use all traffic calming processes available to slow down traffic through Independence. Staff stated that sidewalks are in Caltrans' Right of Way.

Department of Water and Power: Robin Moxley stated that she needs copies of all environmental/cultural reports and letters from Caltrans requesting right of way where DWP is affected. Robin stated that she needs as much lead time as possible on any right of way acquisitions and that it could take anywhere from one to two years if right of way is needed. She also requested aerial maps on the project, and asked about the staging areas for Caltrans and the Contractor. She suggested getting the borrow/excess material situation straightened out now and letting DWP know how we will address these concerns.

Nancy Escallier: Stated that she wants to keep the lines of communication open and appreciates the good working relationship between Caltrans and the Department of Water and Power.

### Action Items:

1. Design will get the maps to Right of Way by October 2002.
2. Environmental working on the cultural/archeological studies.
3. Tim will add the updated information on this project to the Independence 4-Lane Website.
4. AC or PC concrete production in the Right of Way needs to be addressed in the bid documents.
5. Get copies of Environmental/Cultural Reports and letters to DWP requesting right of way permission if DWP right of way is affected.
6. Get aerial maps of the project to DWP.

Independence 4-Lane Project Development Team Meeting

October 17, 2001

Page 4 of 4

7. DWP needs to know:
  - Where will the staging areas for Caltrans and the Contractor be?
  - How will Caltrans handle the Borrow/Excess material?
  
8. Right of Way Schedule Dates:
  - 10/02 Milestone 224
  - 10/03 PA & ED
  - Nancy Escallier will crunch numbers and let Tim Shultz know about a firm R/W cert date.