

**Caltrans Route 46E Corridor Study:
Facilitated Strategy Session**

**June 28, 2007
Study Team Meeting Summary**

Prepared by:



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Introduction

On June 28, 2007 nearly 20 representatives from Caltrans District 5, the City of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County and the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments gathered to discuss Caltrans Highway 46E in the second strategy session facilitated by Carolyn Verheyen of MIG, Inc.

This session focused on developing agreement on a preliminary work plan and defining roles for a Technical Advisory Committee and a Steering Committee.

Meeting Attendees

Caltrans: Kathy DiGrazia, Claudia Espino, Dan Herron, James Kilmer, Aileen Loe, Steven Milton, Bob Pavlik, Chris Shaeffer, Cindy Utter

City of Paso Robles: Ron Whisenand, Jon Falkenstien, Ditas Esperanza

SLOCOG: Rich Murphy, Ron Decarli

SLO County, Frank Honeycutt,

MIG: Paul Rosenbloom, Carolyn Verheyen

Workplan & Schedule, Goals and Issues

Caltrans staff provided study team members with a compilation of technical documents related to the study corridor including:

- A study area map
- Graphic representations of design alternatives for corridor improvements
- A consolidated timeline for the Comprehensive Corridor Study and the Corridor System Management Plan
- Caltrans improvement alternative evaluation criteria
- A list of CSMP milestones for the CMIA Delivery Council
- A graphic representation of current SLO46-E projects and project relationships
- A copy of the 2002 Paso Robles General Plan Circulation Element update

Workplan

Caltrans staff presented the proposed timeline and workplan for the Comprehensive Corridor Study (CCS) and the Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP). Study team members requested clarification on the two different projects.

The CCS will develop a long-term operational concept for the 5 mile segment that comprises the 46E study area. The CSMP is a guiding document designed to manage and plan for the overall Highway 46 corridor and ensure long-term performance of the infrastructure investment. Ron Decarli of SLOCOG noted the proposed timeline could be more aggressive and study team members agreed to review the proposed timeline.

Goals and Issues

The Goals, Issues and Problem Statement document was reviewed and editing requests were noted including:

- **Goals for the corridor:** Fostering connectivity to, across and along 46E
- **Study Goals:** Emphasize the need for realistic funding strategies
- **Study Issues:**
 - Include daily traffic growth rates in the Growth section
 - Note that SLOCOG, the City of Paso Robles and SLO County support LOS D as the minimum threshold. SLO County supports a LOS D in urban areas and LOC C in rural areas of the county.

A revised copy of the Goals, Issues and Problem Statement document will be presented at the next study team meeting for final adoption.

Issues Requiring Further Consideration

A number of issues that need to be resolved through further consideration were addressed. These issues include:

Peak Hour definition and Level of Service methodologies

Members of the study team define Peak Hour differently and this difference needs to be reconciled to reach an agreed-upon Level of Service goal for the corridor. Caltrans currently uses Friday traffic counts while the City of Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo County use mid-week traffic counts. Caltrans is seeking to develop a design solution that will accommodate the 100th worst hour of traffic while the City of Paso Robles is seeking to minimize weekday traffic congestion, and feels it may be infeasible from a funding standpoint to improve the corridor to accommodate the 100th worst hour.

Evaluation Criteria

A matrix of Caltrans project criteria designed to evaluate project investments based on their ability to last 20-25 years into the future was presented and discussed. Study team members asked if these criteria would be used to evaluate every individual project or be used to consider the cumulative impact of multiple projects within the corridor. A number of suggestions were made regarding the criteria including:

- Merging criteria A2-A5 into A8
- Modifying A4 from “Reduce Queue” to “Reduce Delay”

Agreements Reached, Work plan review and Next Steps

The study team reached a number of agreements at the June 28 meeting, including the confirmation of two bodies, a Technical Advisory Committee and a Steering Committee that will assist with the completion of the CCS. Other agreements are listed following the description of these bodies.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet on an as-needed basis to review technical issues and make key recommendations to the study team and steering committee. It was suggested that the TAC meetings be scheduled to follow up on study team meetings to address unresolved technical issues raised at study team meetings, and to prepare materials for review by the Study team at their subsequent meeting.

The TAC will meet on July 25 to address the following issues:

- Evaluation of alternatives using the different methodologies for establishing peak hour traffic projections
- Implications of setting performance targets at the C and D Level of Service standard
- Review and refinement of the presented evaluation criteria
- Refinement of the Improvement Alternatives for Traffic Analysis graphics including:
 - ✓ Increasing spacing between designated frontage roads and Hwy 46E
 - ✓ Explaining that the purple 46/101 interchange oval denotes *some* form of interchange improvement but not what *type*.
- Development of a project glossary that defines relevant terms and acronyms.

Prior to the July 25 meeting, Caltrans staff will contact and advise all TAC members on what materials to bring to the meeting.

The TAC is comprised of the following individuals:

TAC Member	Agency
Claudia Espino	Caltrans
Steven Milton	Caltrans
James Kilmer	Caltrans
Dan Herron	Caltrans
John Falkenstien	City of Paso Robles
Ditas Esperanza	City of Paso Robles
Frank Honeycutt	SLO County
Richard Murphy	SLOCOG

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will meet on an as-needed basis to make final decisions on issues that are not resolved at the study team or TAC level. The Steering Committee will be convened by Dan Haren of Caltrans and will meet in the fall.

The Steering Committee is comprised of the following individuals:

Steering Committee Member	Agency
Rich Krumholz	Caltrans
Jim App	City of Paso Robles
Glen Priddy	SLO County
Ron DeCarli	SLOCOG

Other Agreements

- Agreement on the Goals, Issues and Problem Statement (A revised version of the document will be presented to the group for final approval at the August 17 meeting)
- Agreement on a short-term technical workplan schedule including the review and revision of an MOU with the intent to sign by October 2007.
- The City of Paso Robles agreed to produce a map of the study area that depicts recent, in process and approved construction projects and road extensions.

Next Steps

Working with Caltrans, MIG will develop the agenda for the July 25 TAC meeting and the August 17 study team meeting.

A preliminary draft agenda for the August study team meeting includes:

- Adoption of the revised Goals, Issues and Problem Statement document
- Review and approval of the revised Comprehensive Corridor Study Timeline and workplan
- Review and discussion of the TAC report of findings from their focused alternative evaluation
- Funding overview that will serve as a primer to get all parties on the same page in anticipation of future strategic funding conversations
- Develop a meeting schedule for the remainder of 2007
 - TAC meetings to occur within two weeks of every study team meeting
- Presentation by MIG and Caltrans staff of stakeholder interview strategy