

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. BOX 2048, STOCKTON, CA 95201
1976 E. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. 95205
PHONE (209) 948-7943
FAX (209) 948-3670
TTY 711

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2008 NOV -4 P 1:02



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

October 28, 2008

Tom Mayfield, Supervisor
Stanislaus Co. Board of Supervisors, District 2
1010 10th Street, Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Re: Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report and Announcement of a Public Scoping Meeting for the North County Corridor—Stanislaus County Connector Project

Dear Supervisor Mayfield:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as the lead agency for the California Environmental Policy Act, in cooperation with the North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority (Authority), would like to inform you the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the North County Corridor-Stanislaus County Connector Project has been released. The Authority consists of the County of Stanislaus, and the Cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, and Modesto. Caltrans, the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), and the Authority are in the initial stages of the Project Approval and Environmental Phase. The Notice of Preparation for the environmental document was released on October 20, 2008, for a 30-day comment period.

Caltrans is preparing a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) program environmental impact report, and would like to invite you to attend a Public Scoping Meeting for the project. Two meetings are being held: The first will be on Thursday, November 13, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Salida Regional Library, 4835 Sisk Road, Salida. The second will be a week later on Thursday, November 20, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Oakdale Community Center, 110 South Second Avenue, Oakdale. You are welcome to attend either or both of the meetings, at which the same information will be available.

The North County Corridor is a high-priority corridor for Stanislaus County and its incorporated cities. The corridor will provide approximately 25 miles of roadway on a new alignment. The primary intent of the project is to provide a high-capacity, high-speed, east-west roadway to accommodate anticipated traffic growth and improve safety in the north county area, to alleviate traffic on parallel roadways, to accommodate multi-modal travel, to provide interregional connectivity, and economic growth. The Authority anticipates that the ultimate facility type will be a four-to-eight lane expressway with interchanges, at-grade intersections, grade-separated railroad crossings, irrigation district crossings, frontage roads and street realignments.

Supervisor Mayfield
October 28, 2008
Page 2

The current project phase will result in viable project alternatives, a preferred alternative, and an environmental approval document for the California Transportation Commission to adopt an interregional route for a North County Corridor roadway alignment. The alignment would extend approximately 25 miles from a location on State Route 99 in the vicinity of the Salida community, to a location on State Route 120 approximately 6.25 miles east of the City of Oakdale. This study area was defined by a previous Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design Report in spring 2008. The alignment may be an entirely new roadway or may be incorporated into the existing local road network. Designation of the North County Corridor as a State Route is the first step in the development of the proposed project.

The Public Scoping Meetings will be the first of several opportunities for members of the public to provide comments or concerns that will become part of the public record and be considered in developing the corridor project and the related environmental documents. Maps and other information about the project will be available for viewing at the meeting. There will be representatives from Caltrans, StanCOG, Stanislaus County, and the Cities of Modesto, Oakdale, and Riverbank, along with other specialists in engineering, environmental studies, and right-of-way, to discuss your individual concerns and answer questions.

A copy of the public notice for the information meeting that appeared in *The Modesto Bee* on October 18, as well as *The Oakdale Leader*, and *The Riverbank News* on October 22, has been enclosed.

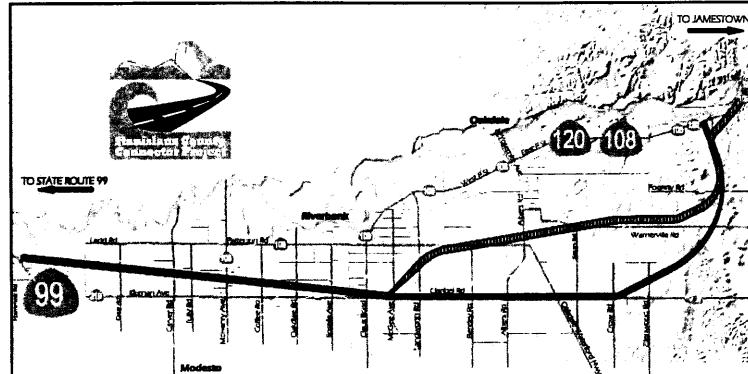
If you have any questions that the public notice does not answer, please contact Gail Miller, Senior Environmental Planner, Central Sierra Environmental Analysis Branch, at (559) 243-8274, or the Project Manager, Christina Hibbard, at (209) 948-7889, for assistance.

Sincerely,



KOME AJISE
District 10 Director

Enclosure

PUBLIC NOTICE**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**
North County Corridor Project**WHEN AND WHERE?**

Dates: Thursday, November 13, 2008	Thursday, November 20, 2008
Times: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Places: Salida Regional Library 4835 Sisk Road Salida, CA	Oakdale Community Center 110 South Second Avenue Oakdale, CA

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act, in cooperation with the North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority, is preparing a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) program environmental impact report for the North County Corridor Project. The Corridor would provide a high-capacity and high-speed east-west roadway that would ultimately be a four-to-eight lane expressway with interchanges, at-grade intersections, grade-separated railroad crossings, irrigation district crossings, frontage roads and street realignments. The alignment would extend approximately 25 miles from a location on State Route 99 in the vicinity of the Salida Community, to a location on State Route 120 approximately 6.25 miles east of the City of Oakdale. The alignment may be an entirely new roadway or may be incorporated into the existing local road network. Designation of the North County Corridor as a State Route is the first step in the development of the proposed project.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans is starting environmental studies for these projects. The Public Scoping Meetings will be the first of several opportunities to provide comments or concerns. Your comments will become part of the public record and will be considered in developing the environmental document.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Maps, information about the project, and other displays will be available for viewing. There will be representatives from Caltrans and the North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority, along with other specialists in engineering, environmental studies, and right-of-way to discuss your individual concerns and answer questions. The meeting will be an open forum/open house format. You are invited to attend any time between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. You are also welcome to come to either or both of the meetings, at which the same information will be available.

WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

Come to the meeting. Talk with staff about the project. Give your input. If you wish to comment on the proposed project, you may make written comments at the meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting but have comments, questions, or concerns regarding the project, please submit them in writing to Gail Miller, Caltrans, 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726 or by e-mail to Gail_Miller@dot.ca.gov.

CONTACT

For general information about the project, feel free to contact Christina Hibbard, Project Manager, Caltrans, at (209) 948-7889 or by e-mail at Christina_Hibbard@dot.ca.gov. Or, contact Matt Machado, Authority Manager, North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority, at (209) 525-6550. For all other State Highway matters, please contact District 10 Public Affairs at (209) 948-7977.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documents in alternate formats, etc.) are asked to contact District 10 Public Affairs Office at (209) 948-7977 at least 5 days prior to the scheduled public scoping meetings. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD at 1-800-735-2922.

STANISLAUS
COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTWelcome to the
City of Modesto
California, USA

