

NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR PROJECT

(209) 464-4350; (877) 464-4350

CONTACT: Judith Buethe
Public Outreach Coordinator
(209) 464-8707, Ext. 101
(209) 969-7722, Cell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 18, 2008

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FORMED FOR NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR PROJECT

Work on Project Has Begun

(Modesto, CA)—A Joint Powers Authority has been formed in Stanislaus County by the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG); the cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, Modesto; and the County of Stanislaus to expedite planning for an east-west expressway across the county. Each of the five entities of the Joint Powers Authority is represented on the Board of the new North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority (Authority). A kickoff meeting for the project was held on August 1, 2008.

Matt Machado, Director of Public Works, Stanislaus County, is the Manager of the Joint Powers Authority.

Jacobs Engineering, Inc. is the consulting firm hired to provide engineering and environmental services for the North County Corridor Project. In the first phase of the project, the firm will prepare documents to meet requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

The North County Corridor (NCC) is a high-priority corridor for Stanislaus County and its incorporated cities. The Corridor will provide approximately 26 miles of roadway on a new alignment to enhance local traffic circulation and to provide regional connectivity and economic growth. The primary intent of the project is to provide a high-capacity and high-speed east-west roadway to accommodate anticipated traffic growth and improve safety in the north county area, to alleviate traffic on parallel roadways, and to accommodate multi-modal travel. 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 new street realignments.

The current project phase will provide viable project alternatives, a preferred alternative, and broad environmental clearance for a North Stanislaus County Corridor roadway alignment that would extend from a location along Dale Road, north of State Route 219/Kiernan Avenue, to a location on State Route 120 approximately 6.25 miles east of the City of Oakdale. The alignment may be an entirely new facility or may be incorporated into the existing local road network. This study area was defined by a previous Feasibility Study and also by a Preliminary Design Report in spring 2008.

Funding for this phase of the project is being provided by State authorization from the California Transportation Commission along with local developer impact fees. In addition, the Authority is pursuing funding from the State that was once part of the now-defunct Oakdale Bypass project. This project is also a part of the proposed Measure S Sales Tax Program.

A public outreach program for the project will seek identification of constraints and input to the project early in the process and will include public meetings, which will be widely advertised; a Hotline (209) 464-4350 or Hotline@buethecommunications.com; and a newsletter. Members of the public who wish to be placed on a mailing list are encouraged to contact the Hotlines.

For more information from prior studies, visit www.stancog.org and choose “North County Corridor Feasibility Study” and “North County Corridor Preliminary Design Report.”

For information on JPA Board meetings and current project status, please visit www.stanco-pworks.org

#