

North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Corridor Project Update – March 2015

The project team has made significant progress in completing the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase for the North County Corridor project. Since the last JPA Board report in October, the team has received approval from Caltrans on most of the technical studies. The Administrative Draft Environmental Document has been updated and will proceed to final review and quality control once the remaining technical studies have been approved. With this progress, the team is on track to release the draft environmental document to the public in the Summer of 2015.

The following is a summary of the ongoing tasks in support of this.

Environmental

The environmental technical studies have been drafted and submitted to Caltrans for review and approval. The following is a status summary of the various reports/studies:

Technical Report/Study	Status
Natural Environment Study (Biological Studies)	Caltrans Reviewing
Jurisdictional Delineation	Caltrans Reviewing
Historic Properties Survey Report	Caltrans Reviewing
Archaeological Survey Report	Approved by Caltrans
Historic Resources Evaluation Report	Approved by Caltrans
Paleontological Study	Approved by Caltrans
Water Quality Study	Approved by Caltrans
Air Quality Assessment	Approved by Caltrans
Noise Study Report	Approved by Caltrans
Visual Impact Assessment	Approved by Caltrans
Hazardous Waste Assessment	Approved by Caltrans
Relocation Impact Report	Caltrans Reviewing
Community Impact Assessment	Approved by Caltrans

It is anticipated that the team will have approval of the remaining required technical studies in April.

With the early rain that the region received in December, the team was able to initiate the survey for the California Tiger Salamander. However, due to the dry start to 2015, a few of the study ponds have dried and surveys for those ponds have been terminated. The remaining ponds will continue to be surveyed this season and the team will consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on surveys for next season.

Public Outreach

The NCC team is currently preparing for the public hearing which will take place approximately 30 days after the release of the draft environmental document to the public this Summer.

Engineering

As discussed in previous JPA meetings, Caltrans has implemented a new process to evaluate the best method to control each intersection. The Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) process involved analyzing each at-grade intersection and determining whether a stop sign, traffic signal or roundabout would be the most viable option for control.

The preliminary analysis showed that roundabouts were the most viable alternatives to control the NCC connections to 108/120 in Oakdale as well as the new access road intersections to the south of the 108/120 connections.

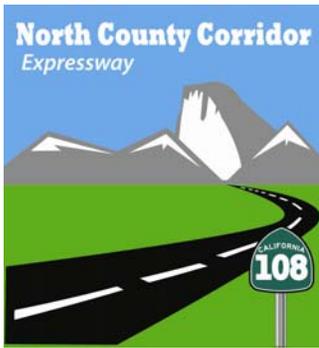
The final ICE analysis and discussion at the PDT meeting resulted in the addition of S. Stearns Road as a roundabout for Alternative 1B and Smith Road as a roundabout for alternative 2B. Caltrans and the PDT felt that the safety benefits of a roundabout at these locations warranted selecting it as the preferred intersection control.

Caltrans has approved the ICE analysis and is currently reviewing the final Traffic Operations Report.

Schedule

The following key milestones are anticipated for the project:

- July 2015 – Public Circulation of Draft Environmental Document
- August 2015 – Public Hearing for Draft Environmental Document
- March 2016 – Public Availability of Final Environmental Document
- September 2016 – Final Approval of Environmental Document



MEETING CANCELED

**NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR
TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSWAY
AUTHORITY**

APRIL 29, 2015 - CANCELED

NEXT MEETING

JUNE 17, 2015 (WEDNESDAY) AT 4:30 P.M.

TENTH STREET PLACE

BOARD CHAMBERS (BASEMENT)

1010 10TH STREET, MODESTO