

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Director's Policy Memo

NO.
DP91-1

TITLE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PRESERVATION	APPROVED BY <i>(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY)</i> ROBERT K. BEST	DATE ISSUED 1-9-91
SUBJECT AREA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR	ISSUING UNIT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE	DATE EXPIRES 1-8-95
SUPERSEDES NEW	DISTRIBUTION DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND DIVISION CHIEFS	

This Corridor Preservation Director's Policy Memo is intended for immediate use by all affected department personnel. The detailed policy and procedure being prepared by the Division of Transportation Planning (DOTP) will address corridor preservation procedures in full.

I. PURPOSE

Rapid population growth and new settlement in California is foreclosing on transportation options. Land suitable for transportation use needs to be set aside at the earliest possible time to accommodate existing growth and planned development. Local government has the responsibility for land use decisions early in the planning process. The Department is responsible for assessing transportation impacts of proposed development on state transportation facilities. Development of an integrated transportation system is a joint responsibility involving local, regional, state, federal and private entities. The Department needs to be involved in all stages of the preservation of existing and future transportation corridors.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of Caltrans to work on a partnership basis with local land use authorities to accomplish early identification of transportation corridors and to explore all appropriate means for the acquisition and preservation of those corridors.

III. PROCEDURE

Corridor Preservation has four identifiable stages for specific procedures, which are carried out jointly with local, regional and private agencies. The procedures used depend on the stage of corridor planning completed.

These stages are:

1. Identify the need for corridor preservation by reviewing general plans, Regional Transportation Plans, corridor studies for future transportation facilities, District System Management Plans (DSMP) and Route Concept Reports (RCR's);
2. Conduct corridor environmental review to identify the environmental consequences of a corridor location. The scale and depth of environmental review should be adequate to the actions being taken for preserving the corridor;
3. Work with local and regional governments to include corridors in local general plans and Regional Transportation Plans. Corridor preservation cannot proceed without appropriate corridor analysis and environmental review.
4. Act to preserve land for a corridor through a variety of means. For example, Department actions include actively fostering donations and dedications, negotiating transportation impact mitigations and pursuing advance right of way purchase.

IV. DEFINITIONS

A **corridor** is a broad, identifiable geographic area connecting significant activity centers that may include various modes of transportation that are not necessarily adjacent to each other. **Corridor preservation** involves such activities as land donations, the use of local land use powers to reserve right of way through zoning and dedications of land for approval of proposed developments, project mitigation measures by local, regional and state action in decisions on developments impacting transportation, and advance right of way purchase.

A **donation** is the transfer of ownership of property as a gift by the donor without payment by the recipient, and may be considered in lieu of obligations or responsibilities. Donations can be accepted by local agencies or directly by the State. A **dedication** is the transfer of ownership of property in exchange for development approvals or in lieu of fees, transportation improvements or other project mitigation measures. Dedications can be accepted by local governments for local use or by the State. **Project mitigation** is accomplished through negotiations with developers and appropriate regulatory agencies to ensure that transportation impacts of development proposals are minimized. Right of way or fees in lieu of right of way can be accepted by local governments for local use or directly by the State.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each district shall implement the corridor preservation policy by working with local and regional jurisdictions in their land use and transportation planning, and incorporating the policy into overall system planning, project development, right of way and access permits activities.

Headquarters functional divisions of Transportation Planning, Right of Way, Project Development, Traffic Operations and Legal shall support district activities by pursuit of creative methods to preserve corridors and incorporate the corridor preservation policy into all pertinent guideline updates. All actions under this policy shall ensure protection of private property rights as provided by the United States and California constitutions.

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Chief, Division of Transportation Planning (DOTP) or the Chief, Office of System Performance, DOTP.