

LOMPOC

Public Information Meeting
Wednesday, July 16, 2008

State Route 246 Passing Lanes

<i>PURPOSE</i>	<p>The purpose of the project is to improve the mobility along this segment of Route 246 by reducing the length of traffic queues, or platoons, caused by the lack of passing opportunities. The project will increase site distance and reduce the length of the approaching uphill grade at the intersection of Tularosa Road. In addition, the project will reduce conflicts and improve the flow of traffic at several intersections. One side benefit of these changes will be improved safety.</p>
<i>NEED</i>	<p>This nine-mile segment of Route 246 is a two-lane conventional highway with numerous intersections and private access points. The terrain is essentially flat except for the area near Tularosa Road, which is near the top of a ridge. Short uphill grades on Route 246 approach the intersection from both directions. The primary land use along this highway segment is agriculture. Many farm implements, (tractors, plows, etc.), use the highway to access isolated fields.</p> <p>Traffic studies for this highway segment show that vehicles spend 65% of the time behind slower moving traffic during peak hour. Although there are several locations along this highway segment where passing is permitted when safe, during periods of peak use, safe passing is limited by oncoming traffic. This causes queuing or platooning. This situation is exacerbated at Tularosa Road when heavy trucks and farm vehicles are slowed by the steep approach grades. Through traffic is further delayed when left-turning vehicles slow or stop in the through lane to wait for oncoming traffic to clear before they can safely complete their turn.</p> <p>The passing lanes will reduce the possibility of unsafe passing by impatient motorists. The improved sight distance at Tularosa Road will allow motorists to more safely enter the stream of traffic on the highway. The left-turn channelizations will segregate left-turning vehicles, which currently slow and stop in the through lanes, thus reducing the possibility of rear-end type accidents.</p>
<i>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</i>	<p>Two sets of passing lanes in each direction, varying between 1.4 and 2.2 miles in length, will be constructed at 1.7 to 3.2 mile intervals to provide passing opportunities during peak periods. Lowering the highway profile through the intersection will reduce the length of the uphill grades approaching Tularosa Road. This will reduce the speed loss of heavy trucks and farm equipment at this location. The profile correction will also improve sight distance for vehicles entering the highway from Tularosa Road. Left-turn channelizations at Hapgood Road, Campbell Road, Big Ranch Road and Drum Canyon/Mail Road intersections will also improve the flow of traffic by removing turning vehicles from the through lanes, thus reducing delay. A two-way left turn lane will be constructed between Hapgood Road and Big Ranch Road.</p>
<i>QUESTIONS?</i>	<p>For more information please call: Cathy Stettler at (805) 549-3797 E-mail: cathy_stettler@dot.ca.gov or write to: CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 Attention: Cathy Stettler 50 Higuera Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401</p> <p>For other State Highway matters, please contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at (805) 549-3138</p>

Final 07-13-08, 05:04:00 am



