



Public Notice



NOTICE of AVAILABILITY of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment and Announcement of **Open Forum Public Hearings**

South Coast HOV Project on U.S. Highway 101

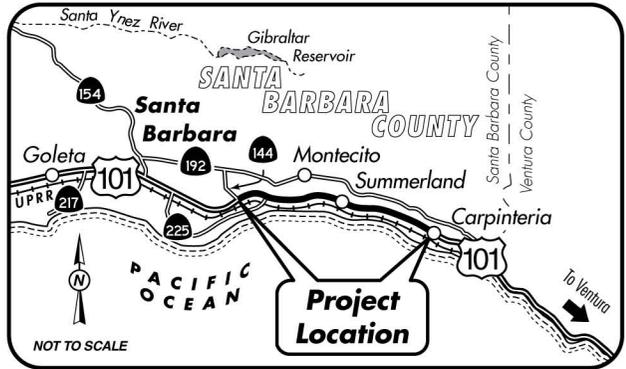
WHEN AND WHERE (2 dates) ●

① Montecito*

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
(Brief Presentation at 6:00 p.m.)
Place: Montecito Country Club
Santa Cruz Room
920 Summit Rd, Santa Barbara, California

② Carpinteria*

Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2012
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
(Brief Presentation at 6:00 p.m.)
Place: Carpinteria High School
Cafeteria
4810 Foothill Road, Carpinteria, California



*Identical content covering the entire project area will be presented at each of the meetings.

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED? ●

Caltrans, in coordination with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, City of Santa Barbara, City of Carpinteria, and the County of Santa Barbara, is proposing to add one part-time high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction on U.S. 101 between the City of Carpinteria and the City of Santa Barbara. The project would also reconstruct two interchanges at Sheffield Drive and Cabrillo Boulevard including replacing the left ramps with new right side ramps. The project limits begin 0.22 miles south of the Bailard Avenue overcrossing in the City of Carpinteria and extend north into Santa Barbara, near Sycamore Creek (0.2 miles north of the Salinas Street ramps). The project is 10.9 miles long.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE? ●

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. A Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment was prepared to communicate the project's potential impacts and the potential for incorporating avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures. The three build alternatives would result in a significant visual impact due to larger bridge structures and two reconstructed interchanges; added pavement along with retaining walls and soundwalls; and the loss of vegetative character. The proposed project would encroach upon wetlands and floodplains and has included measures to avoid and/or minimize harm to wetlands and floodplains. The project proposes to replace bridges within the project limits which would contribute to reduced flooding.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE? ●

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment is available for review at the Caltrans District Office, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Maps and technical studies are also available. The document is also available for review at several libraries: the Santa Barbara City Central Library (40 East Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara), Montecito Branch Library (1469 East Valley Road in Montecito), Santa Barbara Eastside Library (1102 East Montecito Street in Santa Barbara), and Carpinteria City Library (5141 Carpinteria Avenue in Carpinteria).

The document is also available for review or downloading at the Caltrans District 05 website. http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/sb_101hov/

WHERE DO YOU COME IN? ●

An Open Forum Public Hearing will be held to provide an opportunity for you to review the project design concepts, project information, and displays, as well as an opportunity for you to provide written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. The meeting will be an open house format, with a brief presentation at 6:00 p.m. Caltrans engineering, traffic operations, landscape architecture, and environmental staff will be available to answer your questions and desk copies of the draft environmental document will be available for review at the meetings. Your written comments on the document will be part of the public record. Do you believe the project's potential impacts have been adequately addressed by the draft environmental document? Do you have information that should be included?

Comment cards will be available at the Open Forum Public Hearing. A court reporter station will also be available to record individual comments. If you would prefer to comment on the draft environmental document at a later time, you must submit your written comments no later than May 25, 2012 to Caltrans, attention Matt Fowler, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 or via email to: South.Coast.101.HOV@dot.ca.gov

CONTACT ●

For more information on this project, please contact Matt Fowler, Chief of Environmental Planning Branch, at (805) 542-4603, or email South.Coast.101.HOV@dot.ca.gov

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ●

Individuals who require special accommodation (e.g., American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate forms, etc.) are required to contact District 5 Public Affairs Office at (805) 549-3318 at least 7 days prior to scheduled informational meeting date. Telecommunication Devices for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.