

## Summary of June 15, 2010 Aesthetics Community Advisory Meeting

California Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission conducted this community meeting. The project development team has compiled and reviewed the input received.

**Date:** June 15, 2010  
**Location:** De Laveaga Elementary School, Community Room  
1145 Morrissey Blvd. Santa Cruz, CA 95065  
**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 pm, with the aesthetics presentation 7:00 – 8:00 pm

**Purpose of this community meeting:** was to gather public input for improving the visual qualities of the highway corridor within the Soquel/Morrissey project limits.

**Elements of highway aesthetics discussed included:** options for the appearance of the La Fonda Avenue bridge; appearance of retaining walls, concrete barriers; and roadside landscaping scheme.

**Expected outcome from meeting:** a final project design that is visually compatible with the preferences of interested community members

8 people staffed the event:

Bryan Parker, Caltrans Landscape Architect,  
Luis Duazo, Caltrans Project Manager  
Parag Mehta, Nolte Project Manager  
Suzanne Sarro, Nolte Project Engineer  
Susana Cruz, Caltrans Public Information Officer  
Kristen Merriman, Caltrans Environmental Planner  
Trais Norris, Caltrans Senior Environmental Planner  
Kim Shultz, RTC Senior Transportation Planner/Contract Manager/Project Sponsor

25 parties signed into the sign-in sheet as attendees

10 parties submitted comments in writing

Attendees signed in, put on guest name tags, took FAQ and Fact Sheet, browsed around asked questions, viewed a map of the project, viewed displays, spoke with staff

Bryan Parker's Presentation took place 7:00pm -8:30pm

A powerpoint slide show was used as a visual aid while he conducted the presentation. He described the roles of the agencies involved, project history, the visual impact assessment, mitigation measures, and an overview of the proposed improvements.

Next came an exercise to define the visual character of Santa Cruz, referencing the outcome of the 8 public meetings held for the 1/17 Merge Lanes Project. Photos of the aesthetic treatments applied on the Merge Lanes Project were shown to frame the first question: do we want to duplicate those same treatments on the Aux Lanes Project?

The Merge Lanes comparison first focused on the new Branciforte Ave bridge and the aesthetic treatments applied to it, then the retaining walls' texture (dry stack stone), then the soundwall design, then landscaping.

Alternative formliner textures were shown and the subject of retaining walls and concrete barrier was examined. Examples of different types of walls and wall treatments were shown and the arrangement of the aux lanes retaining wall being located behind a concrete barrier was illustrated.

Options for coloring concrete and some of the potential complications with coloring were discussed next, and then it was on to architectural treatments and fencing for the new La Fonda bridge.

Landscaping, revegetation, and tree preservation for the aux lanes project was a key topic of interest with the audience.