



PRESS RELEASE

Today's Date: Friday, May 9, 2014
District: District 6 - Fresno, Kern, Madera, Kings and Tulare
Contact: Caltrans Public Information Office (559) 488-4082
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Releases Draft Environmental Document for Centennial Corridor Public Information Meeting Scheduled

BAKERSFIELD - Caltrans has released the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Centennial Corridor Project, which proposes to create a new transportation facility that would provide route continuity and associated congestion relief along State Route 58 from Cottonwood Road to Interstate 5. For planning purposes the project was divided into three segments. Segment 1 proposes to construct a new freeway connecting the Westside Parkway and State Route 58. Improvements within Segment 2, the Westside Parkway, are necessary to accommodate connection to the new freeway. West of the Westside Parkway, Stockdale Highway would be used to connect to Interstate 5. Improvements in Segment 3 would be made to the intersection at Stockdale Highway and State Route 43 (Enos Lane) to accommodate the new connection.

Multiple alternatives have been studied during the extensive environmental review process. In November 2012, Caltrans identified Alternative B as the recommended preferred alternative. Key to Caltrans' decision was the necessity to follow the requirements of Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Section 4(f) provides a high-level of protection to public parks and historic properties and requires Caltrans to select an alternative that avoids those resources, if such an alternative is available. The final identification of a preferred alternative will be made after consideration of all comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Alternative B would extend State Route 58 in a westerly direction from State Route 99 for approximately one-half mile along the south side of Stockdale Highway, before turning northwest and ultimately connecting to the Westside Parkway just east of Mohawk Street.

Today's release of the Centennial Corridor Draft EIR/EIS marks the beginning of a 60-day public review and comment period. Caltrans is the lead agency for both the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, and all comments should be submitted to Caltrans for consideration, response, and ultimate inclusion in the Final EIR/EIS.





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A public hearing has been scheduled for June 11, 2014, at the Kern County Administrative Center, Building Rotunda, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield. This will be an informal hearing held in an open house format. The public may attend at any time between 4 and 7 p.m.

The EIR/EIS, technical studies, maps and exhibits will be available at the meeting, project engineers and technical staff will be on hand to answer questions. Right-of-way agents will also be available to meet with members of the public whose properties would be directly impacted by the proposed project. Public comments will be accepted at the meeting – a court reporter will be available to take verbal statements and written comments may also be submitted.

The public may review the Draft EIR/EIS, Monday through Friday (except for holidays), at the following locations:

- Caltrans District 6 Office, 1352 West Olive Avenue, Fresno, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Caltrans Environmental Office, 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thomas Roads Improvement Program, 1600 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bakersfield, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- County of Kern Planning Department, 2700 M Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- City of Bakersfield Planning Division, 1715 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Kern Council of Governments, 1401 19th Street, Bakersfield, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Draft EIR/EIS is available at the following Kern County library branches during each branch's regular hours:

- Beale Memorial Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield
- Eleanor Wilson Branch, 1901 Wilson Road, Bakersfield
- Southwest Branch, 8301 Ming Avenue, Bakersfield
- Holloway – Gonzales Branch at 605 E. Brundage Lane, Bakersfield
- Bryce C. Rathbun Branch, 200 W. China Grade Loop, Bakersfield

The draft environmental document and technical studies are also available online at www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/environmental/envdocs/d6/.

Comments will be accepted until July 8, 2014. Please submit written comments to Jennifer H. Taylor, Caltrans, 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721 or by email to centennial@dot.ca.gov.

For additional information regarding the Centennial Corridor Project, please call 1-888-404-6375 or visit www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/environmental/projects/centennial.

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