



State Route 37 Corridor (Ultimate Solution for US 101 to I-80 Corridor) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Public Meeting Summary, September 14, 2022

Overview

Caltrans Bay Area District 4, in coordination with Caltrans Headquarters, is conducting a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study for the State Route (SR) 37 Corridor between US 101 to I-80 to identify transportation needs, consider alternatives, and develop a comprehensive and collaborative transportation vision for this critical corridor. On September 14, 2022, Caltrans hosted the third public meeting for this study to share information with the public on the study status and preferred alternative, and answer questions. The following is a summary of the public meeting.

Meeting Format

The meeting was held online using the Zoom webinar format. Caltrans staff and consultants gave a presentation that lasted approximately 45 minutes. During the presentation, participants were encouraged to enter questions or comments using the Zoom Chat feature. Following the presentation, the meeting moderator provided an overview of questions and comments that had been received and the Caltrans team verbally addressed them. The meeting moderator then encouraged participants to ask verbal questions, to which the team responded.

Participants

Over the 1.5 hours the meeting was held, 133 participants logged in via Zoom and 90 appeared to be from the public.

Accessibility

The presentation content and questions/answers were interpreted in real time from English to Spanish and English to Tagalog. At the start of the meeting, Spanish and Tagalog translators informed participants that interpretation services were available, and that they could listen in Spanish or Tagalog by joining that language channel through the Zoom webinar. The meeting was also recorded and posted to the [PEL webpage](#) to be available to anyone who wished to watch the presentation portion of the meeting. The meeting presentation was posted to the project webpage in English, Spanish, and Tagalog.

Summary

Chris Caputo began the meeting, welcoming participants, and explained interpretation options. Chris explained the use of the Zoom Chat box, link to the project webpage, how comments could be made, and how questions could be asked. He introduced Caltrans and Caltrans consultant staff and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

Tammy Massengale introduced the project, environmental constraints, information about sea level rise and flooding, the PEL Study background, and PEL Study benefits. She reviewed involvement of the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) and the three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in creating evaluation criteria and screening alternatives.



John Cook reviewed the evaluation criteria and screening work and that the PEL process generated information that can inform the forthcoming environmental reviews required under federal and state laws. He reviewed the purpose and need used to screen at Level 1. He reviewed the first nine alignments and explained the recommendations that came out of the Level 1 screening.

Jeff Berna discussed how the Level 2 evaluation screening criteria were created. He explained the addition of Alignment 10 and reviewed a summary of Level 2 screening results. He explained the Level 3 screening and application of 43 screening criteria related to transportation, environment, and feasibility, and explained that Caltrans added more design detail at this stage. Jeff reviewed reasons for rejecting certain alternatives and the recommendation to move forward with Alternative 5 as the preferred alternative. He described the components and attributes of Alternative 5 and showed a typical section of the preferred alternative.

Tammy Massengale closed out the presentation by reviewing the benefits of the PEL Study and the public involvement component going forward and then opened up the question/answer and comment portion of the public meeting. Tammy wrapped up the meeting with information on how to continue to stay involved in the process and submit additional comments.

Public Input and Feedback

The Caltrans and consultant team facilitated a one-hour public comment period utilizing the Zoom Chat and verbal comments. The following themes were captured:

- Merits of the Project
- Alternatives
 - Support for Alternative 5, Preferred Alternative
- Transportation/Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Travel Modes
 - Tunneling
 - Rail
 - Bike/Pedestrian Access
- Tolling
 - Concerns over Fees
 - Tunnel
- Impacts to Disadvantaged Communities
- Cost and Funding
- Other Caltrans projects/Other Bay Area Transportation Needs
- Safety/Seismicity