

Northbound US 101/San Anselmo Road in San Luis Obispo County



FALL 2017

Caltrans District 5



District Director

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Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

District Director's Report

A quarterly publication for our transportation partners

Roadside Safety and Aesthetics

Optimizing safety is the main purpose of the recently completed Caltrans roadside safety improvements project extending 15 miles along US 101 from Atascadero to Paso Robles. The \$2.3 million project, and similar ones statewide, are reducing the exposure of maintenance workers on foot in high-speed traffic areas. Project features are:

- Thirty-nine paved gore areas with contrast surface treatment
- Paved slope areas underneath four bridges
- Installed:
 - Metal-beam guardrail with concrete barrier
 - Drainage system improvements
 - Upgraded safety cable railing

A second roadside safety project in San Luis Obispo County, currently under construction, will address an 18-mile segment of US 101 from Arroyo Grande to San Luis Obispo. The \$2.5 million project is scheduled for completion in fall 2017. Currently, District 5 is implementing eight additional roadside safety projects—in different stages of project development on various highways—in Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Barbara counties. Two others were also recently completed in the latter two counties.



SB 1 Fix-it-First Funding

The Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017

Fixing our roads, repairing aging bridges, reducing traffic congestion and improving goods movement are key goals for the recently passed Senate Bill 1 transportation funding bill. Statewide, Caltrans is committed to fixing more than 17,000 lane miles, 500 bridges, 55,000 culverts, and 7,700 traffic operating systems, which includes installing ramp meters, traffic cameras and electric highway message boards. Currently, Caltrans is expediting \$200 million in pavement projects statewide and \$150 million for restriping along the state highway system as well as identifying and prioritizing the most

needed projects. The new funding, which begins in November 2017, includes the following statewide over the next 10 years:

- \$1 billion – Active Transportation Program
- \$7.5 billion – Transit and rail
- \$3 billion – Trade corridor improvements
- \$2.5 billion – Congestion relief

The new bill will generate \$54 billion split between Caltrans and local agencies over the next decade—the largest transportation investment in more than 20 years. Each year, more than 180 billion vehicles travel on the state highway system. More information:

<http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/SB1.html>



CTP Guidelines Adopted

The California Transportation Commission recently adopted the 2017 *California Transportation Plan Guidelines*. The document provides a policy framework for developing future state transportation plans. The long-range, fiscally unconstrained plan details the state's priorities, guides future investments and maintains consistency with statewide, regional and local plans. More information:

http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/CTP/CTP_2017_Guidelines_Final_5_17_17.pdf

Please Submit Maintenance Service Requests at the Following Link: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/mrsrsubmit/>



Highway 17 Wildlife Connectivity Project

Providing habitat connectivity and safe passage is the purpose of the Highway 17/Laurel Road wildlife connectivity project, near Scotts Valley, in Santa Cruz County. The estimated \$7 million project will connect two core habitat areas while protecting individual animals and ensuring long-term species survival. The California Transportation Commission recently approved \$3 million in the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) for the project's environmental, design and right-of-way costs. Construction funding is expected to come from local sources, including \$5 million from Santa Cruz County's recently approved Measure D sales tax.

After extensive environmental and biological review, the project site was identified as the highest priority for maintaining critical habitat with evidence of mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats and coyotes on both sides of the roadway. Highway 17 is an important link connecting the Santa Cruz Mountains with the Diablo Mountain Range and the Gabilan Range. Fragmented habitat is difficult for animal survival in finding adequate food, water and mates; raising their young; and establishing new territories. Challenges to wildlife mobility along the roadway include high traffic volumes, concrete median barriers and inefficient pathways at culverts or bridge under crossings.

A multi-agency partnership developed solutions for improving animal connectivity on the corridor. These included the following: Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Caltrans, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pathways for Wildlife and U.C. Santa Cruz (Puma Study).



Advanced Mitigation Credits

The Highway 17 wildlife connectivity project in Santa Cruz County also provides a unique opportunity for Caltrans to partner with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on a pilot for an innovative advanced mitigation credit agreement. The first of its kind in California, the agreement establishes mitigation credits that can be applied to future transportation projects.

Mitigation credits created by the Highway 17 wildlife project may be used by the Department or sold or transferred to other transportation agencies with projects in a specific service area. The pilot credit agreement may be used as a model for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's new statewide Regional Conservation Investments Strategies Program. More information:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation>



Complete Streets Projects Kick-off

Creston Road Complete and Sustainable Streets Corridor Plan

The City of Paso Robles' \$185,000 grant will develop a Complete Streets Plan for Creston Road in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County. It will include community involvement to identify strategies for a two-mile pedestrian, bicycle and transit-friendly thoroughway. It will also feature Complete Streets design for sidewalks and intersection changes supporting travel modes for all users, ages and abilities. A greening element will be added for natural drainage as well.

Highway 9 Complete Streets Plan

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's \$249,000 grant will develop a Complete Streets Plan for 10 miles of Highway 9 in Santa Cruz County. The plan will identify, prioritize and implement multimodal improvements with a focus on asset management. It will address severe bicycle, pedestrian and transit gaps as well as collisions, congestion and system deterioration.



Call for Projects Coming

A call for projects for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program is scheduled for September 2017. The program, funded through SB 1, includes:

- Sustainable Communities & Strategic Partnerships – \$25 million annually
- Climate Adaptation Planning Grants—\$20 million over three years

Successful projects support sustainable communities and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. More information:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html>



D5 Bicycle Champions

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Rideshare Program recently recognized District 5 with the *Defending Bike Month Challenge Champion* Award. The District kept the 2016 title with 37 employees bicycling most every day in May for Bike Month. In addition to the golden handlebars trophy (inset), the District won a one-month free trial of riding an electric bicycle. Hats off to all participants!