

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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EA 05-12910
Route 1/17 Merge Lanes

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RE: PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- Final design details and right of way clearance activities continue on the 1/17 Merge Lanes Project. The Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate (PS&E) – (Design Phase) of the project, and Right of Way Certification are on schedule for a construction start date of August 2005. Cost estimates are being updated to reflect recent price increases in asphalt and steel. Cost estimates are expected to be within the current programmed amount.
- STIP funding availability is still in question, and may impact the schedule of this project. The 2004 STIP was approved on August 5th. Construction funding is proposed in 2005; however, a lack of STIP funding this fiscal year may impact fund availability next year as projects queue up awaiting funding. Design and Right of Way work is being completed as soon as possible to eliminate any construction constraints on the project.
- We have encountered one property, which will have to go to condemnation to obtain the necessary right of way (soundwall easements). The parcel will be on the CTC meeting agenda October 27-28, which will enable us to certify the right of way on schedule.
- The design team has been meeting with the City of Santa Cruz to discuss city street detour plans for the Branciforte overcrossing closure, Emeline off-ramp closure, and other temporary ramp closures. They are also discussing landscape maintenance responsibilities on the city side of the soundwalls, and other improvements to improve traffic circulation for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians during construction. We hope to finalize this work by the end of October.

Luis Duazo,
Caltrans, Project Manager