

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** SCCRTC **DATE:** August 17, 2004

**FROM:** Nolte Associates, Inc. **PROJ #:** Route 1 HOV Lane  
Widening (SJ0086001)

**SUBJECT:** Commission Status Report for Period:  
May 2004 Through July 2004

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- 1) Project Status Update
  - a) Environmental
    - i) Purpose and Need
    - ii) Cultural Resources (Section 106 Documentation/Studies)
    - iii) Biological Resources
    - iv) Noise Studies
    - v) Socio Economics Studies
  
  - b) Engineering
    - i) Survey
    - ii) Geometric Development
    - iii) Traffic Modeling / Analysis
    - iv) Independent Utility projects
    - v) Project Study Report
  
  - c) Public Outreach
    - i) Public Involvement
    - ii) Public Comment Report
    - iii) Public Input - Alternatives
  
- 2) Schedule
  
- 3) Next Update - December, 2004

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**1. PROJECT STATUS UPDATE (for Work Completed May '04 through July '04)****a. Environmental**

- i) Based on the Purpose and Need approved by the Commission in January, a short project description has been developed for use in the technical reports.
- ii) Cultural Resources – Section 106 Documentation
  - a. Architectural: A first draft of the Historic Resource Evaluation Report (HRER) was submitted on June 4<sup>th</sup> to our lead environmental firm, Parsons, for their review/comment. The Draft HRER was submitted to Caltrans on June 25, 2004 for review/comment.
  - b. Archeological: Field work is 100% complete. Non-visible properties have been surveyed. The Archeological Survey Report (ASR) is complete and has been submitted to Caltrans, also on June 25.
  - c. Extended Phase 1/Phase 2 Plan draft Report has been reviewed and returned to the specialist. Subsurface exploration work is scheduled for September, 2004.
- iii) Biological Resources – field work is complete. Wetlands have been determined and are being transferred to topographic base mapping. This will be complete in mid-August. Once complete, the Wetlands Delineation Report will be transmitted to USACOE (Corps), who will then define jurisdictional limits. Anticipation is this will occur in the fall of '04.
- iv) Noise measurements have been initiated and are 90% complete. The formal work plan has been submitted to Caltrans for review. Upon approval, the remaining measurements will be taken.
- v) The team has completed gathering land use, socioeconomic, neighborhood, and community facilities information for corridor communities, including General Plan, Specific Plan and other relevant planning documents from Santa Cruz County and local communities. Data manipulation and tabulation was performed and Affected Environment (setting) portion completed; report has been tabled pending completion of engineering for impacts assessment.
- vi) A CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP) formally announcing the project to the regulatory agencies was prepared and distributed in April. [A NEPA Notice of Intent (NOI) is not required because the environmental document is a hybrid NEPA Environmental Assessment/CEQA Environmental Impact Report (EA/EIR)].

**b. Engineering**

- i) Survey
  - a. Planimetric topography is complete for the entire project corridor.
- ii) Geometric Development
  - a. A route centerline has been established and conceptually approved by Caltrans.
  - b. The white paper on the opportunities and constraints for providing direct median access to the HOV lanes from the crossing streets is complete. Discussions continue on if/how to further pursue this type of access and possible associated costs. Similar “on-system” access concepts have also been discussed in PDT meetings and are also being considered for further study.
  - c. The collector distributor (C/D) system between 41<sup>st</sup> and Bay/Porter which was presented to the City of Capitola in April continues to be assessed in an effort to reduce impacts in this

area. A follow up meeting with the City was held in June and it was agreed a new concept would be developed that provides two lane, one way frontage roads between 41<sup>st</sup> and Bay/Porter. This “one-way couplet” system favors bicycle/pedestrian traffic, perhaps at the expense of overall operations (though the freeway itself should not be negatively impacted). This concept is currently being developed.

iii) Traffic Modeling

- a. The Existing Conditions report has been reviewed and is being modified to reflect the entire project corridor versus the supplemental section. This is a result of comments from Caltrans and RTC.
- b. The AMBAG traffic model is now scheduled for availability in August, '04. Original date was November, '03.

iv) Independent Utility Projects

- a. Initial assessment of the proposed independent utility auxiliary lane projects has been completed. Recommendations are now being finalized. It has been determined thus far that construction of the auxiliary lane is feasible and will result in minimal “throw-away” costs upon development of an ultimate 6 lane facility.
- b. A memorandum on the potential locations for bike/ped overcrossings was prepared and submitted to RTC for review and comment. The memo looks at uses, physical constraints, impacts and cost ramifications of those locations identified in the Caltrans PSR. As a result of this effort, a broader review of potential crossing locations is being considered, prior to more detailed engineering.

v) Project Study Report

- a. The draft supplemental PSR, updated with environmental and traffic data, has been re-submitted to CT and RTC staff for review/comment. Comments are anticipated in mid-August.

**c. Public Outreach**

- i) Community meetings were held to help scope the project in late April.
- ii) A Draft Public Comment Report was prepared and submitted to RTC for review.
- iii) Public comments/input were further reviewed and summarized for use in determining project alternatives to be considered in the PR/ED.

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## 2. SCHEDULE

The following are some major milestones per the current schedule. The following schedule has not been modified since the last update. The AMBAG traffic model continues to be the most critical item impacting schedule. The accessibility to properties for the archeological subsurface work, though not on the current critical path, remains a focal point for the overall schedule.

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| ➤ Public Meetings                       | April '04 (Complete) |
| ➤ Cultural Resources Initial Field Work | Feb '04 (Complete)   |
| ➤ Archeological Subsurface Work         | Sept '04             |
| ➤ Traffic Modeling / Analysis           | Aug '04 – July '05   |
| ➤ Admin Draft EA/EIR                    | Feb '05              |
| ➤ Public Circulation                    | Nov '06              |
| ➤ Final EA/EIR submittal to FHWA        | May '07              |
| ➤ FHWA ROD                              | Oct '07              |

## 3. NEXT UPDATE: DECEMBER, 2004