

July 14, 2005

Claudia Espino
Chief Advanced Planning Branch
Caltrans District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5414

Subject: Route 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lane Project

Dear Ms. Espino:

This correspondence is a follow up to earlier discussions with staff to clarify if a Project Study Report (PSR) will be required for the proposed Auxiliary Lane project on State Route 1 between Soquel Drive and Morrissey Boulevard (northbound and southbound directions). For the reasons that follow, we believe that dedicating resources to complete another PSR for this project is not productive.

This project was one of four auxiliary lane segments previously studied as part of Alternative 3, Ramp Metering and Auxiliary Lanes in PSR 05-0F650K, entitled Operational Improvements on Route 1 in Santa Cruz County in and near Capitola and Santa Cruz, dated September 2002.

Based on the recommendations of the PSR, this project was specifically included as a potential independent utility project in the current Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) scope of work on the Santa Cruz Highway 1 Widening/HOV Lane Project. Planning efforts on this project have evolved with the prospect of receiving Federal High Priority Project (HPP) funds as part of the TEA 21 Reauthorization bill currently under discussion in Washington D.C. With the pending release of State transportation funds, the RTC is hopeful this project can be fully programmed in the very near future.

Accordingly, we are very interested in accelerating project development phase of the Auxiliary Lane project in close coordination with Caltrans along with implementation of the Highway 1/17 Merge Lane Project. The Highway 1 PA/ED project consultants are currently developing geometric plans for submittal to Caltrans's Project Manager Luis Duazo, and have prepared a preliminary project schedule (attached) which calls for the start of PA/ED activities in August 2005.

We request your favorable consideration of forgoing the development of another PSR on the Auxiliary Lane project so that all available resources can be focused on advancing necessary PA/ED activities with Caltrans. I think there is mutual

agreement that the Auxiliary Lane project will compliment and significantly enhance traffic operations on this section of Highway 1 in conjunction with the Caltrans Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project, and we are most anxious to deliver this project as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contract Kim Shultz of my staff at 831-460-3208.

Sincerely,

Pat Dellin
Acting Executive Director

Attachment: Preliminary Project Schedule, June 2005

Cc: Louis Duazo, Caltrans D-5, Project Manager
Rich Krumholz, Caltrans D-5, Deputy Director
Chris Metzger, Nolte Associates
Kim Shultz, SCCRTC