

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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November 15, 2005

05-SCr-1/17 -KP24.7/28.1  
(PM15.3/17.4, 0.0/0.8)  
EA 05-12910  
Route 1/17 Merge Lanes

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**RE: PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

- Contract Documents are being finalized in preparation for advertising the project for bid in late November. The project will be awarded in February, and construction is expected to begin in March 2006. The current volatility in asphalt and concrete costs is a concern. We are hopeful that bids come in within the allocation amount.
- Tree removal required in the vicinity of Branciforte and Carbonera creeks will occur prior to the start of major construction. Trees will be removed this winter (December/January) prior to migratory bird nesting as required by the environmental document, and to avoid potential delay to the project due to nesting birds.
- The project development team will be meeting in December to discuss how the Public Awareness Campaign will be implemented. It is expected that information on the project will be going out to the public early next year.

Luis Duazo,  
Project Manager