

Highway 1 Safety Project



Project Location:

From the Freedom Boulevard over-crossing to just north of the Rio Del Mar Boulevard over-crossing in Santa Cruz County.



Simulated photo of completed project

- Install Concrete Median Barrier

HIGHWAY 1 PROJECT

Funded by the State Highway Operation and Protection Plan (SHOPP).

Project Cost: *Estimated \$2.2 million*

Project Purpose & Need

- Large shrubs in the median compromise the existing barrier's effectiveness.
- Improve safety by upgrading existing facilities with the latest technology, ensuring barrier operates properly when struck by an errant vehicle.
- Improve safety by reducing maintenance in the median, resulting in fewer lane closures and less congestion.
- Stabilize slopes, improve freeway corridor appearance and reduce workers' exposure to traffic.

Project Description

- Remove large shrubs located in the median.
- Replace the existing metal thrie-beam median barrier with a concrete one, including a section of new thrie beam.
- Connect north end of the new barrier to the existing concrete barrier north of the Rio Del Mar over-crossing.

Project Description (cont.)

- Plant low-growing native grasses in the ground adjacent to the new barrier.
- Plant native evergreen shrubs, and other vegetation, on the bare sections of the northbound highway shoulder adjacent to Soquel Drive.
- Upgrade irrigation and drainage facilities, and control erosion.

Construction

- Starts in fall 2004.
- Completion in fall 2006, weather permitting.
- Work will be done in three phases: removing shrubbery in the median, constructing the concrete barrier and planting vegetation on the highway shoulder.

Lane Closures

- During construction of the first phase, the Highway 1 southbound fast lane will be closed during vegetation removal for about 15 working days, and the northbound slow lane may be closed periodically during the 20 working days of erosion control and planting.
- Construction of the median barrier will also require lane closures of both the north and southbound fast lanes.

Caltrans worked in partnership on this project with the Aptos Chamber of Commerce Community Enhancement Committee and Second District County Supervisor Ellen Pirie.