



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1523 PACIFIC AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-3911 • 831/ 460-3200 • FAX 831/ 460-3215

January 31, 2006

SERVICE AUTHORITY
FOR FREEWAY
EMERGENCIES
(SAFE)

Lisa Johnson
Central Coast Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RAIL/TRAIL
AUTHORITY

RE: Initial Study for the Glenwood Curves Highway 17 Safety Project

COMMUTE
SOLUTIONS

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study for the Glenwood Curves Highway 17 Safety Project. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Santa Cruz County. This project supports one of the SCCRTC's goals of preserving and maintaining the existing transportation system, emphasizing safety and efficiency. In addition, Highway 17 is a vital link between Santa Cruz County and the San Francisco Bay region and the SCCRTC supports safety improvements to the highway.

TRANSPORTATION
POLICY WORKSHOP

RTC staff recommends the inclusion of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) components at the proposed project site to augment the safety improvements. In addition, the Central Coast Intelligent Transportation System Strategic Deployment Plan identifies Highway 17 as a priority corridor for ITS deployment. ITS components can provide detection and verification of conditions and broadcasting of correct and timely information to motorists. The Caltrans District 4 and Caltrans District 5 Traffic Management Centers also rely on ITS equipment strategically placed on highways to alert emergency or maintenance vehicles of highway incidents.

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Caltrans completed a Project Study Report (PSR) on the application of Traffic Operation System (TOS) elements along Highway 17, including the proposed project segment, in December 2003. RTC staff recommends that you consider the installation of ITS elements as proposed in the 2003 TOS PSR as cost-effective components of the Glenwood Curves Highway 17 Safety Project. Recommended ITS elements along this segment include CCTV and vehicle detectors at 10.29PM, 10.60PM and 11.05PM. Also, RTC staff requests that you work with the Traffic Operation System (TOS) Oversight Committee of

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the SCCRTC and the Safe on 17 Task Force to determine what design features should be considered in the proposed project to facilitate the these future TOS components.

RTC staff would like to emphasize that the Traffic Management Plan developed to minimize construction and effects on local traffic circulation be available to RTC staff, local jurisdictions staff, the California Highway Patrol and the public. The SCCRTC may be able to provide additional input regarding local traffic issues affecting this area. As noted in the Initial Study for the proposed project, the Highway17 corridor serves commute, recreational and commercial traffic. RTC staff suggests that the traffic management plan be developed in coordination with Caltrans District 4 and include the use of the existing changeable message signs and highway advisory radio along Highways 1 and 17 to inform motorists of construction activities. In addition, due to the volume of traffic during the day for regular commuting and during the weekends for tourist travel, staff suggests that construction work be done during the night when possible.

There are 4 call boxes in the project area. Staff recommends that Caltrans coordinate with Grace Blakeslee (831-460-3219) to have any call boxes within the project footprint temporarily removed prior to the beginning of construction and avoid any damage to the call boxes.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Pat Dellin
Acting Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Mark Stone
TOS Committee
Caltrans District 5 Regional Planning and Development Review
Caltrans District 5 Traffic Management Center
Caltrans District 4 Traffic Management Center
SCCRTC