

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** SCCRTC **DATE:** May 18, 2006  
**FROM:** Nolte Associates, Inc. **PROJ #:** Route 1 HOV Lane  
Widening (SJ0086001)  
**SUBJECT:** Commission Status Report for Period:  
March, 2006 through May, 2006

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- 1) Project Status Update (HOV Project)
  - a) Environmental
    - i) Cultural Resources
    - ii) Biological / Wetland Resources
    - iii) Other Technical Studies
  - b) Engineering
    - i) Geometric Development
    - ii) Traffic Modeling / Analysis
  - c) Public Outreach
    - i) Newsletters
    - ii) Open House
- 2) Project Status Update (Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes)
  - a) Supplemental Project Study Report
  - b) Environmental Studies
  - c) Engineering Development
  - d) Public Involvement
- 3) Schedule/Budget
- 4) Next Update – September, 2006

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**1. PROJECT STATUS UPDATE (HOV Project – March, 2006 through May, 2006)**

- i) Cultural Resources – Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act
  - a. Architectural [unchanged] – Historic Resource Evaluation Report (HRER) was submitted to Caltrans for review. Caltrans comments were received.
  - b. Archaeological: Draft Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) is prepared pending subsurface explorations. The Administrative Draft Historic Properties Survey Report (HPSR) was submitted to Caltrans for review April 2006. This report transmits the ASR & HRER also.

[unchanged] State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and FHWA procedures prevent invasive work in areas that would not be affected for the project. The Ramp Metering/Auxiliary Lane alternative is not expected to affect cultural resources and subsurface work will be performed following identification of preferred alternative.
- ii) Biological / Wetlands Resources
  - a. The Draft Wetland Report was submitted to Caltrans in February, 2005. Comments have been received and noted. A Wetlands Impact memo was prepared summarizing impacts to the identified areas due to the various alternatives, and quantifying the impact areas by alternative. Future design development will attempt to reduce impacts in these areas. Next study efforts are dependent on finalizing alternatives/impacts.
  - b. [unchanged] Draft Location Hydraulics Study has been prepared to evaluate flood impacts of the alternatives. Final report will reflect alternatives.
  - c. [unchanged] All biological / wetlands resource issues have been delineated on CADD for engineers' use in developing the alternatives.
- iii) [Unchanged] The team has completed gathering noise data along with 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 have been analyzed and tabulated and Affected Environment (setting) portion completed; report has been tabled pending completion of engineering for impacts assessment. (Stopped since Fall '04.)

**b. Engineering**

- i) Geometric Development
  - a.) The Nolte/HNTB team has been refining four of the Alternatives discussed in January, 2005. These Alternatives, currently under review for impacts are:
    - Ramp Metering and Auxiliary Lane (RMAX)
    - HOV Lane Widening with Standard Geometry (following Caltrans PSR Geometry)
    - Reduced Geometry Alternative
    - Diamond Interchange Configurations at Morrissey and Soquel.

An initial geometric review meeting was held in December at Caltrans, San Luis Obispo. A follow-up meeting was held in late March. Initial comments from Caltrans on the geometrics were received from Caltrans, however, Caltrans also stated their review was not complete, expecting a much more detailed design package. RTC staff, Nolte and Caltrans staff are in discussions over how to reach a reasonable agreement on the geometry without a full 35% design for each alternative. (Note: due to budget limitations, Nolte's scope reflects development of geometry to a 10% completion level)
- ii) Traffic Modeling Analysis

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- a. Traffic Model – Collaboration between RTC, AMBAG, Caltrans and the Consultant team (Nolte and Wilbur Smith) continues. Monthly conference call meetings are continuing, currently focusing on the operations analysis. Specific milestones/decisions reached and/or being implemented:
- Freeway operations calibration was complete in October, 2005.
  - Horizon year has been changed to 2035.
  - Initial traffic projections have been generated using AMBAG’s Travel Demand Model and agreed upon methodology to meet the planning horizon year of 2035. The traffic projections are differentiated between the “No-Build” condition (meaning no changes are made to Highway 1) and the “Build” condition (meaning Highway 1 is widened to provide HOV lanes). Projections have been generated for both the freeway mainline and at specific locations on parallel arterials (i.e. Soquel Drive, Capitola Road, and Park Drive). These projections were validated using data for existing conditions, reviewed and approved by Caltrans and local agencies.
  - Operations Analysis for the Standard Geometry and Ramp Metering Alternatives is under way. The operational analysis is conducted using a micro traffic operations model used to determine the appropriate design features for the various project alternatives, including the location of auxiliary lanes along the corridor and number of lanes on the freeway on and off ramps. Measures of effectiveness (MOEs) will be created to evaluate the respective project alternatives including vehicle travel times and delay, person trips, and vehicle occupancy.
  - Bike / Pedestrian Crossings – [unchanged] The Pedestrian/Bike Crossings recommended for this project at Mar Vista, Chanticleer and Trevathan have been incorporated into the HOV alternatives.
- b. Transit Market Analysis - has been initiated and is on-going. Transit trips within the county have been analyzed, and transit trips outside the county are now being analyzed.
- iii) Supplemental Elements
- a. Storm Water Data Report – This report, addressing treatment of storm runoff from the project, has been initiated. Current focus is on the Reduced Standard Geometry, and requirements/opportunities for incorporation of Best Management Practices (BMP’s).
- b. Structural – Conceptual Bridge Plans, or Advance Planning Studies (APS) will be prepared for the structures requiring modification. Work has begun using the Standard Geometry as the most conservative approach for assessing more detailed issues, and establishing costs.
- c. Public Outreach Activities (HOV Project)**
- i) A series of Community Workshops is being planned to update the community on the HOV project’s progress and receive input on issues to consider in anticipation of the preparation of the draft environmental document. These workshops are now expected to occur in the summer of this year, following the first round of Task Force meetings, and preceding the second round of Task Force work, currently scheduled for the fall.

## 2. SOQUEL / MORRISSEY AUXILIARY LANES

- a.) Summary notes from November 17<sup>th</sup> public meeting have been prepared by CirclePoint, and reviewed and approved by Caltrans. An overview of these notes is being developed for placement on the project website.

- b.) The Supplemental Project Study Report has been approved by Caltrans. This document is required to place the project in the RTIP and thus pursue additional funding.
- c.) Environmental Studies and Engineering development will proceed this summer pending resolution of funding.

### 3. SCHEDULE / BUDGET

The following are some major milestones per the current schedule. The following schedule is very similar to that presented at the last update. The traffic analysis and subsurface exploration both remain on the critical path, with each item causing roughly a one year delay. The anticipated completion is now scheduled for Fall, 2009. Overall phasing/development schemes to expedite construction, should funding become available, will be developed over the coming year.

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| ➤ Traffic Modeling / Analysis                                 | Aug '05 – October '06 |
| ➤ Admin Draft EA/EIR  | Jan/Feb '07           |
| ➤ Public Circulation  | Fall, '07             |
| ➤ Select Preferred Alternative                                | Spring, '08           |
| ➤ Archaeological Subsurface Work                              | Spring/Summer, '08    |
| ○ Potential Begin “Design at Speed”                           | Fall, 2008            |
| ➤ SHPO concurrence  | Winter, '09           |
| ➤ Final EA/EIR submittal to FHWA                              | Fall '09              |
| ➤ Approval of Final Environmental Document and Project Report | Winter '09/'10        |
| ○ Potential First Construction Contract                       | Summer 2010           |

With the additional effort expended and planned on the independent utility project (Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes), additional budget will be required to complete the Environmental Document for the HOV project.

### 3. NEXT UPDATE:

RTC Update planned in September, 2006.