

August 31, 2007

**KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS & CALTRANS JOIN FORCES
TO WIDEN & IMPROVE STATE ROUTE 46**

For additional information, contact:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organizations: Kern Council of Governments, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, and Caltrans District 5 and 6; with support from the California Highway Patrol, local, state and federal representatives, and the Fix-46 Committee

What: Kern, San Luis Obispo COGs and Caltrans will sign a Memorandum of Understanding committing to a cooperative effort to help facilitate widening State Route 46

When: 9:30 a.m. September 4, 2007

Where: East end of Wallace Dr. (north Golden Hill Rd., Off Highway 46) in Paso Robles (Map and Agenda Attached)

Officials from San Luis Obispo and Kern Council of Governments, as well as Caltrans District 5 and 6, will band together in Paso Robles on Aug. 31 to announce a cooperative effort to widen and improve Highway 46 from Highway 99 to US Highway 101 in Paso Robles.

The ceremony is the fruit of a unique partnership among the three organizations, and the next step in a process that began more than a decade ago.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed committing both councils of governments to cooperatively seek additional funding from Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission to widen and improve State Route 46 from Bakersfield to Paso Robles.

In San Luis Obispo County the widening project is divided into six phases. Environmental review has been completed on three phases between US 101 and the Kern County line. The first phase, Union, from Airport Road to Geneseo Road, is scheduled to go to construction in 2008. The second phase, Whitley 1, from Geneseo Road to West of Almond Drive, is scheduled to go to construction in 2010.

State Route 46 is part of the National Highway system, on the State Interregional Road System, and is designated as a High Emphasis Focus Route and State Highway Extra Legal Load route in the Caltrans Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan.

“Highway 46 has long been recognized as a lifeline corridor connecting the Central Valley to the Central Coast,” said SLOCOG Executive Director Ron DeCarli. “By working together, as a partnership, with our state and federal legislators, we will continue to secure the necessary funding and resources to improve this critical highway for the traveling public.”

This project was made possible by the leadership of Supervisor Harry Ovitt, former State Senator Jack O'Connell and the Fix 46 committee, who helped create the Safety Corridor Task Force and the eventual state and federal funding commitments of over \$177million. Project funding was made possible with the help of Congresswoman Lois Capps, Congressman Bill Thomas, Congressman Kevin McCarthy, State Senator Abel Maldonado and Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee.

Representatives of Kern County and San Luis Obispo County, as well as Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, and local state and federal elected officials are planning to attend the signing ceremony.

Directions to event:



Take 46 East to Golden Hill
Turn left on Golden Hill then immediately right on Wallace Dr.
Follow Wallace Dr. to end overlooking Hwy 46.

San Luis Obispo Council of Governments



Ronald De Carli, Executive Director

Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Census Data Affiliate
Service Authority for Expressways and Freeways

Arroyo Grande
Atascadero
Grover Beach
Morro Bay
Paso Robles
Pismo Beach
San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo County

HIGHWAY 46 WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

OVERVIEW

Highway 46 is a major interregional route connecting the Central Coast with the Central Valley region. It is one of the few east-west routes connecting Interstate 5 to US 101 and is currently a two lane rural conventional highway from Airport Road to the Kern County line. State Route 46 is part of the National Highway system, is on the State Interregional Road System, and is designated as a High Emphasis Focus Route and State Highway Extra Legal Load route in the Caltrans Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan. Due to the high volume of vehicles and the relatively high percentage of truck traffic (21%), widening of the route to a split four-lane expressway for both safety and operational considerations has long been a priority for the region.

After a substantial increase in fatal collisions in 1995, the Route 46 Safety Corridor Task Force was formed in 1996. SLOCOG staff worked closely with Caltrans, CHP, local legislators, the Fix 46 group, and members of the public to develop a short and long term improvement plan for the corridor. While studies and design were being developed for improvements to the corridor, the California Highway Patrol increased enforcement in the corridor. A number of short term actions were implemented ranging from installing rumble strips, constructing guardrail, installing call boxes, reconfigured passing lane drops, and establishing a "double fine zone" to name a few. By 1998 many significant interim measures were in place and the long term plan of a four lane divided highway on Route 46 East between Paso Robles and Cholame had taken shape. SLOCOG and Caltrans cooperatively funded a \$62M project to construct a four lane divided expressway from Airport Rd east to the Shandon Rest Stop in the 1998 State Transportation Improvement Program.

AREA MAP



The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SLOCOG and the Kern Council of Governments establishes a working relationship to secure funding for improvements on the Highway 46 corridor between Highway 101 and Interstate 5. Kern County is striving to see completion of SR 46 between our common County line and Bakersfield, while initially focusing on the segments between the county line and US 101.

The MOU supports these efforts and provides that the agencies agree: to support funding and development of project segments within the Corridor; to work with Caltrans Districts 5 and 6 to develop and fund project segments; request Caltrans Headquarters and the California Transportation Commission commit Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funding, and/or Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funding toward improvements on the corridor; and, agree to meet and confer upon request of any party to this MOU or by any of the two Caltrans Districts to discuss proposed changes to project scope, limits, cost and/or schedule. Any proposed change to project scope, limits, cost and/or schedule must be approved by the California Transportation Commission before becoming effective.

In San Luis Obispo County the widening project is divided into six phases. Environmental review has been completed and two phases between US 101 and the Kern County line are programmed for construction. The first phase, Union, from Airport Road to Geneseo Road, is scheduled to go to construction in 2008. The second phase, Whitley 1, from Geneseo Road to West of Almond Drive, is scheduled to go to construction in 2010.

The project will accomplish the following:

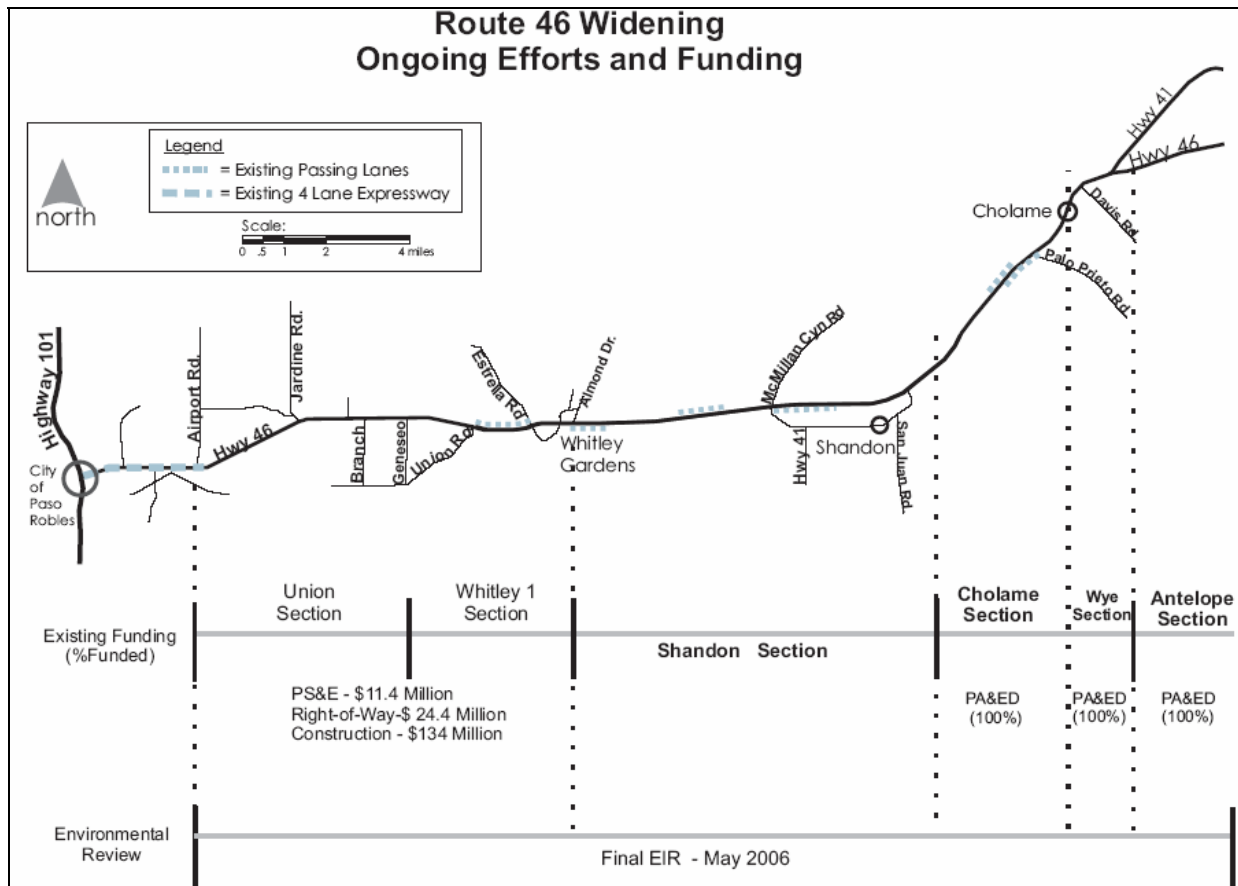
- Convert the first 18+/- mile segment to a four-lane expressway, reducing collision rates, traffic operations and level of service.
- Widening the highway to a four-lane divided expressway would minimize fatal accidents, improve safety and reduce existing and future peak-hour congestion.
- Improve LOS from F to C by 2029.

TIMELINE

- 1997: Supervisor Harry Ovitt, former State Senator Jack O'Connell and the Fix 46 committee spearhead SR 46 Safety Task Force – recommended interim safety improvements including, medians, passing lanes, rumble strips, increased patrols, and a safety corridor designation.
- 1998: SLOCOG and Caltrans Program \$62 Million to widen highway between Airport Road and Shandon Roadside Rest stop.
- 1998: Congresswoman Lois Capps secures \$6 Million for project
- 2000: Caltrans initiates Project Report and Environmental Review for corridor between Airport Road and East of SR 41/46 East Junction
- 2004: Caltrans and SLOCOG program supplemental funding for underfunded phases of project development and right-of-way acquisition
- 2005: Congressman Bill Thomas secures \$34 Million for project
- 2007: Project Report, environmental review, and required permits completed.
- 2007: Caltrans and SLOCOG secure \$67 Million in funding from Prop 1B funding
- 2008: Anticipated construction start of Union Segment
- 2011: Anticipated construction start of Whitley 1 Segment

PROGRAMMING and PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Segment	Phase	Years	Status*	Total
Environmental Review on entire corridor:		1999-2006	Completed	\$8,000,000
Segment I				
Union	Design:	2002-2006	In Progress	\$4,400,000
(Airport Rd - Geneseo Rd.)	Right of Way:	2002-2007	In Progress	\$13,400,000
	Construction:	2007-2008	Programmed	\$47,042,000
Segment II				
Whitley1	Design:	2002-2007	In Progress	\$7,000,000
(Geneseo Rd. - Almond Dr.)	Right of Way:	2006-2008	In Progress	\$11,000,000
	Construction:	2008-2009	Programmed	\$87,000,000
Segment III				
Whitley 2	Design:	2002-2007	Not Programmed	
	Right of Way:	Future	Not Programmed	
	Construction:	Future	Not Programmed	
Segment IV				
Cholame	Design:	Future	Not Programmed	
	Right of Way:	Future	Not Programmed	
	Construction:	Future	Not Programmed	
Segment V				
Wye	Design:	Future	Not Programmed	
	Right of Way:	Future	Not Programmed	
	Construction:	Future	Not Programmed	



San Luis Obispo Council of Governments



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San Luis Obispo County

September 4, 2008; 9:30 AM

KERN, SAN LUIS OBISPO COG_s & CALTRANS JOIN FORCES TO WIDEN & IMPROVE STATE ROUTE 46 PRESS CONFERENCE

AGENDA

1. Jim Patterson – SLOCOG Board President & County Board of Supervisor
 - a. Welcoming Remarks
 - b. Dignitary Recognition
 - i. Federal and State Officials
 - ii. Local Elected Officials
 - iii. Agency Officials (Caltrans, KernCOG, CHP)
 - iv. Other – (Fix 46)
 - c. Purpose of Press Conference
 - i. Common Interests: Safe and Effective Mobility between I5 and US 101
 - ii. Memorandum of Understanding to improve safety and mobility on SR46
2. Supervisor Harry Ovitt – SLOCOG Delegate & County Board of Supervisor(D1)
 - a. Background
 - i. Fix 46 Committee
 - ii. Safety Task Force
 - iii. Funding
 1. 98 STIP Funding
 2. Federal Funding (Thomas/Capps)
 3. State Bond Measure (Corridor Mobility Improvement Account Funding)
3. Caltrans: Tim Gubbins, Division Deputy Director Programming and Project Delivery
 - a. Challenges: Cost Increases
 - b. Project Status: Union Segment
 - c. Project Status: Whitley 1 Segment
4. KernCOG: Ron Brummett, Executive Director
 - a. Current Efforts
 - b. MOU and Common Objectives
5. Closing and Signing of MOU - Jim Patterson

**KERN, SAN LUIS OBISPO COG_s & CALTRANS JOIN FORCES
TO WIDEN & IMPROVE STATE ROUTE 46
PRESS CONFERENCE**

Attendance

James Patterson, Master of Ceremonies, President-SLOCOG Board, Supervisor-County of San Luis Obispo

Congressman Kevin McCarthy, 22nd Congressional District
(represented by Mike Whiteford, Field Rep-SLO County)

Senator Maldonado 15th District
(represented by Christopher Raymer Field Rep-SLO County)

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee 33rd District
(represented by Debbie Arnold Field Rep)

Harry Ovitt, Supervisor District 1- County of San Luis Obispo

Fred Strong, Councilmember, City of Paso Robles

Frank Mecham, Mayor, City of Paso Robles

Tim Gubbins, Caltrans District 5 Division Chief, Program and Project Management

Collin Jones, Public Affairs Officer, Caltrans District 5

Mark Bakios, California Highway Patrol

Mary Chambers, Chair-Fix 46 Committee

Ron DeClari, SLOCOG Executive Director

Rich Murphy, SLOCOG Director of Programming

Ron Brummett, Executive Directory, Kern Council of Governments