

**NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR
TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ITEM: 4a

SUBJECT:

Project Updates

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Discussion Only

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not determined

DISCUSSION:

Jacob's staff provides the following updates:

Public Outreach Update – A Public Information Meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2011. This will be another opportunity for the public to provide comments that will become part of the public record and will be considered in developing the environmental document.

Date: Thursday, June 16, 2011
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Riverbank Community Center
3600 Santa Fe Street
Riverbank, California

Maps, information about the project, and other displays will be available for viewing. Representatives from Caltrans and the North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority will be in attendance, along with specialists in engineering, environmental studies, and right-of-way to discuss individual concerns and answer questions.

Traffic Update – The Existing Conditions Report, Transportation Planning Report, and Travel Demand Forecasting (TDF) Model Calibration/Validation Reports have been approved by Caltrans. The process of developing traffic forecasts has begun.

Environmental Update – Environmental staff held a meeting with 6002 regulatory agencies on May 17, 2011. Comments were received on the alternatives approved for analysis for the technical studies and Draft EIR/EIS.

Draft versions of the project description and alternatives chapters of the Draft EIR/EIS are nearly complete and will be submitted to the PDT for review in June. Once approved by the PDT, these will be distributed to the 6002 agencies for their comments.

Caltrans is the CEQA and NEPA lead agency for the North County Corridor State Route 99 to State Route 120 Project. Public comments collected at this meeting are not part of the CEQA or NEPA public review process and will not be made a part of the official public record.

Fieldwork for the spring biological surveys continues throughout the project corridor and will continue over the next few months. We are currently coordinating with Caltrans to identify the area of potential effect for cultural resources. Other studies are presently underway that will be used for the environmental document.

Over 80% of the 1164 individual parcels have been received with "Permission to Enter" (PTE) forms from residents/property owners to date. These PTE's are requests to gain access to private property for environmental study for the areas that have been defined for field surveys. Of the remaining parcels:

- 38 individual owners, representing 61 parcels, have refused entry
- 3 properties remain undeliverable
- 136 responses from individual owners are still outstanding

Jacobs has done a series of door-to-door outreach efforts four times thus far (March 12, March 15, April 15, and June 4). Jacobs continues to make phone calls to all the outstanding property owners per Caltrans directive. Caltrans right-of-way staff has begun to contact those owners that have refused to grant access to their properties.

Design Update – Access points to the proposed facility by either interchange or at-grade intersections were provided to Caltrans for review. These proposed access points address the local transportation network and state standards. Caltrans is requiring additional documentation on reasoning behind these access points as it relates to their local agencies planning processes.

A meeting has been scheduled with the City of Oakdale on June 6, 2011 to discuss the Stearns/Wamble Road alignment alternatives. Another meeting has been set with ConAgra to discuss the alignment alternatives that potentially affect their operations.

AB 286 Update – Would require the proceeds from the sale of excess properties acquired by the State for improvements to State Route 120 (the Oakdale By-pass) to be used for improvements to State Route 108 in Stanislaus County, the North County Corridor Project. The bill would require Caltrans to deposit the sale proceeds in a special account and would require the California Transportation Commission to program the funding to any phase of the North County Corridor when eligible. The bill has passed in the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Transportation Committee.