

Report to California State Legislators

Solano County Transportation Projects Status Report



Solano Transportation Authority
February 13, 2013

2013 Solano Transportation Authority Board of Directors



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Mission Statement

"To improve the quality of life in Solano County by delivering transportation projects to ensure mobility, travel safety, and economic vitality."

The STA was created in 1990 through a Joint Powers Agreement between the cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo and the County of Solano to serve as the Congestion Management Agency for Solano. As the Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for the Solano area, the STA partners with various transportation and planning agencies, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Caltrans District 4.

The STA is responsible for countywide transportation planning, programming transportation funds, managing and providing transportation programs and services, delivering transportation projects, and setting transportation priorities.

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Transportation projects in Solano County are funded from a variety of Federal, State and local fund sources. With the passage of the **Proposition 1B Bond** in November 2006, the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) was able to secure from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) \$74M from the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) for the State Route (SR) 12 Jameson Canyon project, and \$44M of CMIA funds for the I-80 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes. In addition, the Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (TCIF) has provided \$50M for the I-80 Eastbound Cordelia Truck Scales Relocation Project and the I-80/I-680/ State Route (SR) 12 Interchange Initial Construction Package is expected to receive \$24M.



Historically, Solano County has been dependent on state and federal transportation funds to fund the majority of its priority transportation projects. Working through the STA and with the support of its federal and state legislative delegation, Solano County has been successful in obtaining federal earmarks and funding from state sponsored initiatives.

In 2004, Bay Area voters passed **Regional Measure 2 (RM 2)**, adding a 4th dollar to the bridge toll for the Bay Area’s seven state owned bridges. The RM 2 expenditure plan included specified capital and operating funds for Solano County. The regional funds received by Solano County through RM 2 and the voter approved Proposition 1B funds have helped offset or delay the effect in the near term of the loss of reliable federal and state transportation funds.

Both RM 2 and Proposition 1B funds are close to being fully allocated for existing projects either under construction or scheduled to be under construction by next year. The STA has been seeking innovative fund sources to deliver other major freeway, highway and transit projects during this critical financial time. A more consistent source of state funding needs to be secured in order for Solano County to continue to partner with Caltrans and the CTC to improve its transportation infrastructure along the I-80 and SR 12 corridors.

Local construction jobs have a measurable impact on Solano’s economy. The total number of workers who have been employed on the projects delivered by a Caltrans-STA partnership as of July 2012, and are estimated to work on the upcoming I-80/I-680 Interchange Complex project, are:



Project	Jobs funded by and working on the project	Combined Jobs*
SR 12 Jameson Canyon (Solano)	108	1,195
I-80 EB Truck Scales	150	1,362
I-80/I-680 Interchange Complex <i>(estimates for upcoming project)</i>	100	1,200
TOTAL	358	3,757



**The combined jobs (in the construction sector, in industries supporting the construction sector, and other related jobs in non-construction sectors) are based on the federal formula for job creation and the total cost of the projects.*

2) I-80 Eastbound (EB) Cordelia Truck Scales Relocation Project

The Project will construct a larger, more efficient truck scale facility in a large oval configuration on eastbound I-80 approximately ½ mile to the east of the current facility. Associated new on- and off-ramps are being constructed, and, upon completion of the project, the existing facility will be demolished.



I-80 EB Cordelia Truck Scales Relocation Project – Under Construction 1/29/13

Construction for this facility began in early spring 2012. The project award was based on not only the value of the work, but also the number of days to construction the project. Significant progress by the contractor can be seen already. With the compressed construction schedule, the new facility is planned to be opened in

2013, two years ahead of schedule. This time savings is based on two factors; one was STA's ability to get the project to construction one year earlier, and two is due to the contractor's bid for the number of days to build the project.

The Westbound Scales remain a priority for the STA, Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol.

NEXT STEPS: Funding for the \$130M westbound facility needs to be secured.

3) I-80 Express Lanes

An Express Lane toll, or High-Occupancy Toll (HOT), is a toll enacted on single-occupant vehicles that wish to use lanes or entire roads that are designated for the use of High-Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs, also known as carpools). Tolls are collected either by staffed toll booths, automatic number plate recognition, or electronic toll collection systems. Tolls change according to real-time traffic conditions to manage the number of cars in the lanes and keep them free of congestion.



Carpool Lanes on I-80 will be converted to Express Lanes

The first segment (Red Top Road to I-505) of the I-80 Express Lanes in Solano County was initiated with the Project Study Report being approved by Caltrans in late 2011. The Project Approval/Environmental Document phase of the work is expected to be completed by 2014 and funding has been secured from the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) for project design. With funding, this project can be ready for construction by 2015-16.

The I-80 Express Lanes are part of the new Bay Area Regional Express Lanes Network authorized by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in 2011. As such, the STA is working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and a Subcommittee of MTC Commissioners with regard to governance of the network. This issue is key, as it will set the stage for the long term management structure and decision making approach for this Network.

NEXT STEPS: STA is seeking to fund environmental document work for the segment of Express Lanes on I-80 between the Al Zampa (formerly Carquinez) Bridge and Highway 37 and to fund construction of the 18-mile segment on I-80 between Red top Road and I-505.

4) Redwood Parkway -Fairgrounds Drive Access Improvements



The environmental documentation for this project was initiated with the Scoping Meeting that was held on January 26, 2011. The purpose and need of the project is to address existing congestion and improve operations; provide improved local access for businesses and residences; provide needed capacity to accommodate existing and future traffic demand; and reduce impacts to local residents, businesses and the environment.

The Draft Environmental Document was circulated for public comment summer of 2012. The Project

Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) phase of this project will be completed after the new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is adopted by MTC in June 2013.

NEXT STEPS: STA is working with the City of Vallejo and the County of Solano to fund construction for this project.

5) Jepson Parkway

The Jepson Parkway is an I-80 Reliever Route that will provide a local transportation network which, once completed, will relieve congestion on I-80.

STA completed the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Study (EIR/EIS) for the Project in 2016. The STA has entered into funding agreements to fund and construct \$73M of the overall estimated construction cost of \$185M.

The project design has been initiated for Phases 1 and 2 with the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Funding Agreements with the Cities of Fairfield and Vacaville and Solano County. Phases 1 and 2 are moving forward to construct the 4.5 mile segment between the new Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station at Cement Hill Road and Vanden Road to north of the Alamo Drive/ Leisure Town Road Intersection in Vacaville. Construction is planned to begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15. 50% of the project is funded by local impact fees and 50% from the STIP. Insuring the continued support of this project by the CTC is vital to complete this 12-mile Reliever Route.

The award winning Jepson Parkway Concept Plan is being updated to reflect the revised design of the project. This Plan update is expected to be completed in summer 2013. The Concept Plan was developed in 2000 and contains many of the Complete Streets Concepts developed subsequently by MTC and the State Legislature.

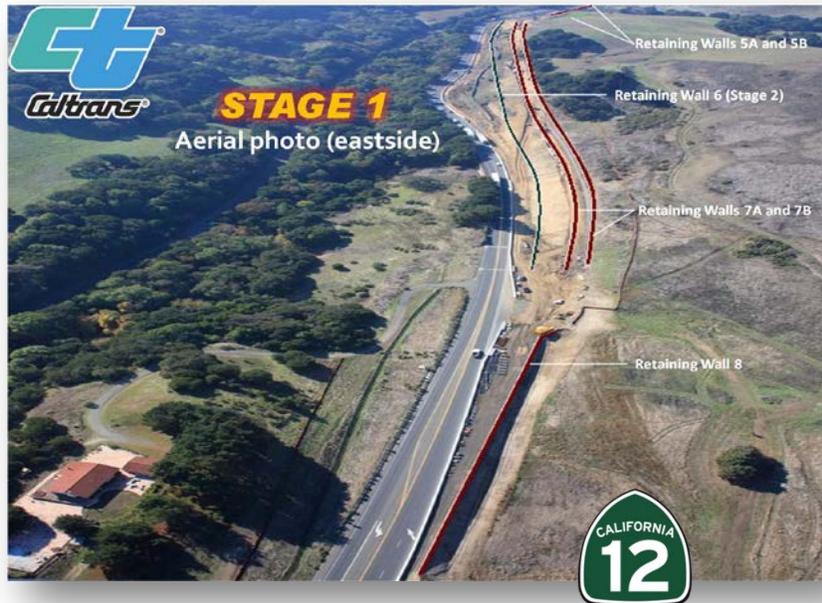
NEXT STEPS: The STA will continue to seek programming of County State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) shares to match local funds for this project.



Leisure Town Road Interchange and Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Vacaville, looking southwest along I-80 and Leisure Town Road, the northern segment of the Jepson Parkway

6) State Route 12 (Jameson Canyon)

The existing State Route (SR) 12 has one lane in each direction with no median barrier. It has sections that do not meet current highway standards and consistently maintains a poor level of service. This Project will widen approximately 6 miles of SR 12 from two to four lanes and upgrade the highway to current standards from I-80 in Solano County to SR 29 in Napa County. The purpose of this Project is to add capacity to relieve traffic congestion and upgrade the facility to improve safety and operations along the route.



The construction of this project began in early spring 2012. The construction is being completed with two construction contracts, a Solano County contract and a Napa County contract. Retaining walls are being constructed to the north side of the roadway. The new roadway is planned to be open in late 2013 or early 2014, pending a full upcoming construction season.

NEXT STEPS: The STA, in partnership with Caltrans and the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA), will be seeking support from the CTC to transfer funding from the Solano construction contract to the Napa construction contract to insure the entire project is successfully completed on schedule and under budget. This action will be sought this Spring 2013.

7) State Route 12 East Projects

The next safety project on SR 12 East is \$9M of improvements designed to reduce accidents and minimize accident severity involving fixed objects, and provide a clear recovery zone off the roadway between Azevedo Road and Liberty Island Road. This process involves removing trees to widen the shoulders, correcting the vertical curves to meet the stopping sight distance for a 55 mph design speed, constructing left-turn pockets, and installing a 6" asphalt overlay.

Caltrans has obtained environmental clearance and has initiated the Right of Way acquisition process. Construction is expected to start in 2013, pending completion of the Right of Way activities by Caltrans and approval of the first Right of Necessity action by the CTC in March. STA is a strong advocate of this project and supports this safety project beginning construction in 2013.



8) I-80 SHOPP Rehabilitation Projects (Vacaville to Vallejo)



Caltrans has completed over \$120M of State Highway Operations & Protection Program (SHOPP) rehabilitation projects programmed for I-80 between Dixon and Vallejo. These projects began in FY 2007-08.

The remaining section on I-80 to be rehabilitated is the section between Vacaville and Dixon. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) funded this rehabilitation work in April 2012. The work is scheduled to begin construction in the spring/summer 2013.

9) Dixon B Street Undercrossing

The STA is delivering the Safe Routes to School, pedestrian and bike priority project on behalf the City. This project is fully funded and will begin construction summer 2013. The \$6.7M project is funded as follows:

Funding Sources	TOTAL
TDA 4/8	\$975,000
TDA 3	\$125,000
HPP Earmark	\$668,000
OBAG CMAQ	\$1,394,000
OBAG TE	\$1,141,000
STIP TE	\$1,321,000
Dixon Local Match	<u>\$1,151,000</u>
	\$6,775,000



This near-term safety project also supports the advancement of a future I-80 Capitol Corridor train station.

10) Fairfield/Vacaville Intermodal Station

The Fairfield/Vacaville Intermodal Station (“Station”) will be located between the cities of Fairfield and Vacaville at the crossroads of the Jepson Parkway and Peabody Road in Solano County, near Travis Air Force Base. The new Station will provide convenient access to the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) rail service which has the best on-time performance (95%) in the country, and local and intercity buses for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Located in the heart of the San Francisco-Sacramento Mega-Region, the Station is an important component of a regional strategy to relieve congestion on Interstate 80. It is the catalyst for a transit oriented community providing residents and commuters with multiple and alternative transportation options. The total project cost is estimated to be \$55M. \$30M came from RM2 bridge tolls and more than \$4M from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Construction is scheduled to begin in 2014.



11) Vallejo Transit Center at Curtola and Lemon

The multimodal approach of the Solano Transportation Authority to meeting current and future transportation demands on the I-80 corridor is accomplished by integrating crucial investments in transit systems, corridor commute options and supporting smart growth in Priority Development Areas (PDAs).



The Vallejo Transit Center, at Curtola Parkway and Lemon Street, is comprised of two Park and Ride lots, Greyhound Bus Station, and bus stop serving Vallejo Transit and the Benicia Breeze. The Transit Center contributes to the reduction of single occupancy vehicles along the I-80 corridor between Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, and San Francisco Counties. To correct current deficiencies, the new Transit Center and Parking Structure will:

- Improve current bus transit operations by separating both eastbound and westbound bus circulation from the park-and-ride car traffic.
- Construct a parking structure to meet current parking demand of 700 vs. existing 485.
- Create a phased plan to meet parking demand through the year 2030 (1100 spaces).

The first phase (1A) will construct the bus transit plaza with passenger amenities, adjacent street improvements, surface lot improvements for first 110 spaces, security improvements and user amenities for an estimated \$10M. MTC has programmed \$11.75M of RM2 funds.

NEXT STEPS: The STA is working with the City of Vallejo and Solano County Transit to fully fund and begin construction in 2013.

12) Mobility Management Plan

Development of a Mobility Management Plan is a priority strategy identified in the Solano Transportation Study for Seniors and People with Disabilities. Per the Study, Mobility Management is "short-range planning, management activities and projects for improving coordination among public and other transportation service providers." The Plan will create implementation plans and complete tasks for four other high priority projects:

- Countywide ADA Eligibility Process
- Call Center and gather information for website from public, private and non-profit transportation resources for seniors, people with disabilities and the low-income population
- Travel Training Program Options
- Older Driver Safety Programs Information



The Mobility Management Plan will also address the transportation needs of the low-income population, identified through the multiple Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTPs) completed in Solano County.

The Solano Seniors and People with Disabilities Transportation Advisory Committee, Senior Coalition and the Paratransit Coordination Council (PCC) have helped develop this plan and the plan's initial four elements. A final report is scheduled to be completed and submitted to the STA Board for adoption in April 2013.

13) Solano Safe Routes to School Program

The Solano Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program was initiated by the STA Board in 2008 following the completion of a Solano SR2S Plan in 2007. All seven Solano cities, STA and Solano County Public Health are collaborating with Solano County's 7 school districts, Solano County Board of Education and their community stakeholders to create SR2S Plans to improve the safety of pedestrian and bicycle modes of student travel:



- Education
- Encouragement Events
- Enhanced Enforcement Activities
- Engineering Improvements
- Evaluation



In May of 2013, STA is coordinating a countywide SR2S Summit to gather stakeholders to review the new SR2S mapping and draft SR2S plan update, discuss various SR2S program activities, and kick off the STA's new Walking School Bus Program (funded by a \$500K federal grant).

SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Member Agencies: Benicia ❖ Dixon ❖ Fairfield ❖ Rio Vista ❖ Suisun City ❖ Vacaville ❖ Vallejo ❖ Solano County

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