
I-80 Express Lanes Project

SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 04 – SOL – 80 – PM 10.4/30.2
EA 04-4G080/PROJECT ID 0412000332

Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Environmental Assessment



Prepared by the State of California Department of Transportation
and Solano Transportation Authority

The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable Federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried out by Caltrans under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 USC 327.



Caltrans

July 2015

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has prepared this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the project located in Solano County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency for preparing the environmental document in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document tells you why the project is being proposed, alternatives considered, how the existing environment could be affected by the alternatives, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Please read the document
- Additional copies of this document, as well as of the technical studies relied on in preparing it, are available for review at:
 - Caltrans District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California;
 - Solano Transportation Authority, One Harbor Center, Suite 130, Suisun City, California
 - Vacaville Public Library – Cultural Library, 1020 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687
 - Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield, CA 94533
- Attend the public meeting scheduled for August 4, 2015, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The Solano County Events Center. We would like to hear what you think. If you have any comments regarding the project, please attend the public meeting and/or send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline.
- Submit comments via postal mail to:
 - Department of Transportation, District 4
 - Attn: Zachary Gifford
 - 111 Grand Avenue
 - Office of Environmental Analysis, MS-8B
 - Oakland, CA, 94612
- Submit comments via email to: I80ExpressLane@gmail.com

Be sure to submit comments by the deadline: August 18, 2015

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans, as assigned by the FHWA, may: (1) give environmental approval to the Build Alternative, (2) do additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Department of Transportation, Attn: Zachary Gifford, 111 Grand Avenue, Office of Environmental Analysis MS-8B, Oakland, CA, 94612; (510) 286-5610, Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, 711.

SCH No. XXXXXX
DISTRICT 04-SOL-80-PM 10.4/30.2
EA 04-4G080/PROJECT ID 041200332

Construct an approximately 18-mile High Occupancy Vehicle/High Occupancy Toll (HOV/HOT or express lane) project on Interstate 80 (I-80) from west of Red Top Road to east of Interstate 505 (I-505), within Solano County.

**Initial Study with Proposed
Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C)

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

And

Solano Transportation Authority

July 13, 2015

Date of Approval



Bijan Sartipi
District Director
Department of Transportation, District 4
CEQA/NEPA Lead Agency

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

Department of Transportation
Attn: Zach Gifford
111 Grand Avenue
Office of Environmental Analysis, MS-8B
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 286-5610

Solano Transportation Authority
Attn: Janet Adams
One Harbor Center, Suite 130
Suisun City, CA 94585
(707) 424-6010

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Proposed Mitigation Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), proposes to provide High Occupancy Vehicle/High Occupancy Toll lanes (HOV/HOT or express lanes) in both the westbound and eastbound direction of Interstate 80 (I-80) from west of Red Top Road to east of Interstate 505 (I-505), within Solano County, California. The I-80 Express Lanes Project (project) would construct approximately 18 miles of express lanes in the I-80 corridor through conversion of existing HOV lanes and highway widening for new express lanes. The project limit is approximately 20 miles because of the need to install express lanes signs and equipment 1 mile in advance of the actual express lane entrance. The general location of the proposed improvements extends along I-80 from post mile (PM) 10.4 to 30.2 and passing through the cities of Fairfield and Vacaville.

Determination

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt an MND for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This MND is subject to change based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project, and pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons.

The proposed project would have no impact on land use, coastal zone, wild and scenic rivers, parks and recreational facilities, growth, community character, and energy.

The Build Alternative includes a number of avoidance and minimization measures that are considered part of the project design and apply to all of the proposed improvements under the Build Alternative (see relevant Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures discussions within each section of **Chapter 2.0, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**). These avoidance measures would be implemented prior to and during construction activities, and would be included as part of the special provisions of the construction bid package for the project. Implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures included in the project design would avoid significant impacts to the majority of resource topics (farmlands, community impacts, utilities/emergency services, traffic and transportation/pedestrian and bicycle facilities, visual/aesthetics, cultural resources, hydrology and floodplain, water quality and storm water runoff, geology/soils/seismic/topography, hazardous waste/materials, and air quality).

Significant impacts that would not be avoided and/or reduced through the implementation of the avoidance measures include potential significant impacts to paleontological resources; noise levels exceeding the noise abatement criteria thresholds; and the direct displacement of oak and riparian woodlands, jurisdictional water features, and habitats suitable for burrowing owl and California red-legged frog. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been proposed:

Mitigation Measure PALEONTOLOGY-A (PAL-A): Monitoring and Mitigation Program

Mitigation Measure NOISE-A (NOI-A): Provide noise abatement

Mitigation Measures BIOLOGY-A (BIO-A) through BIO-F: Compensatory mitigation for potential impacts to oak woodland habitat, aquatic and wetland habitat, riparian woodland habitat, burrowing owl, and California red-legged frog

Implementation of Mitigation Measures PAL-A, NOI-A, and BIO-A through BIO-F, in combination with the avoidance and minimization measures, would reduce all significant impacts to a less than significant level.

Bijan Sartipi
District Director
Department of Transportation, District 4
CEQA/NEPA Lead Agency

Date

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