Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Mathilda Avenue Improvements at SR 237 and US 101

Lead Agency: Caltrans, District 4
Mailing Address: 111 Grand Avenue, Mail Station 8B
City: Oakland
Zip: 94612
County: Alameda

Project Location: County: Santa Clara City/Nearest Community: Sunnyvale
Cross Streets: SR 237/Mathilda Avenue and US 101/Mathilda Avenue interchanges
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37° 24' 3" N 122° 1' 38" W Total Acres:
Assessor's Parcel No.:
Section:
Twp.:
Range:
Base:
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: US 101, SR 237
Airports: Moffett Field
Waterways: Sunnyvale West Channel
Railways: VTA Light Rail
Schools: Sunnyvale

Document Type:
CEQA: [X] NOP  [ ] Draft EIR  [ ] Supplement/Subsequent EIR
[ ] Early Cons  [ ] Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.)  [ ] Mit Neg Dec Other:
[ ] NOI  [ ] NEPA: [ ] NOI  [ ] EA  [ ] Draft EIS  [ ] FONSI
[ ] Other:

Local Action Type:
[ ] General Plan Update  [ ] Specific Plan  [ ] Rezone  [ ] Annexation
[ ] General Plan Amendment  [ ] Master Plan  [ ] Prezone AUG 1 4 2015  [ ] Redevelopment
[ ] General Plan Element  [ ] Planned Unit Development  [ ] Use Permit  [ ] Coastal Permit
[ ] Community Plan  [ ] Site Plan  [ ] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)  [ ] Other: Encroachment

Development Type:
[ ] Residential: Units Acres  [ ] Transportation: Type Interchange/Street Improvements
[ ] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees  [ ] Mining: Mineral  [ ] Power: Type MW
[ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees  [ ] Waste Treatment: Type MGD  [ ] Hazardous Waste: Type
[ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[ ] Educational:
[ ] Recreational:
[ ] Water Facilities: Type MGD

Project Issues Discussed in Document:
[ ] Aesthetic/Visual  [ ] Agricultural Land  [ ] Fiscal  [ ] Recreation/Parks  [ ] Vegetation
[ ] Air Quality  [ ] Archeological/Historical  [ ] Flood Plain/Flooding  [ ] Schools/Universities  [ ] Water Quality
[ ] Minerals  [ ] Coastal Zone  [ ] Noise  [ ] Sewer Capacity  [ ] Wetland/Riparian
[ ] Drainage/Absorption  [ ] Economic/Jobs  [ ] Population/Housing Balance  [ ] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading  [ ] Growth Inducement
[ ] Public Services/Facilities  [ ] Toxic/Hazardous  [ ] Solid Waste  [ ] Land Use

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to reconfigure lanes on Mathilda Avenue and modify the US 101/Mathilda Avenue and SR 237/Mathilda Avenue interchanges. Two Build Alternatives would be studied and improvements include ramp modifications; removal, addition and modification of signalized intersections; pavement rehabilitation; enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and modifications to public utilities, storm water facilities, street lighting, ramp metering, and signage.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Revised 2010
Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

X Air Resources Board
X Office of Historic Preservation
X Boating & Waterways, Department of
X Office of Public School Construction
X California Emergency Management Agency
X Parks & Recreation, Department of
X Caltrans Highway Patrol
X Pesticide Regulation, Department of
X Caltrans District # 4
X Public Utilities Commission
X Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
X Regional WQCB # 2
X Caltrans Planning
X Resources Agency
X Central Valley Flood Protection Board
X Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
X Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy
X S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
X Coastal Commission
X San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
X Colorado River Board
X San Joaquin River Conservancy
X Conservation, Department of
X Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
X Corrections, Department of
X State Lands Commission
X Delta Protection Commission
X SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
X Education, Department of
X SWRCB: Water Quality
X Energy Commission
X SWRCB: Water Rights
X Fish & Game Region # 3
X Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
X Food & Agriculture, Department of
X Toxic Substances Control, Department of
X Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of
X Water Resources, Department of
X General Services, Department of
X Other:
X Health Services, Department of
X Other:
X Housing & Community Development

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date August 18, 2015
Ending Date September 16, 2015

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Caltrans District 4
Address: 111 Grand Avenue, Mail Station 8B
City/State/Zip: Oakland, CA 94612
Contact: Phone: (510) 622-8729

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: __________________________ Date: 9/12/15

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: 

From: Caltrans, District 4
111 Grand Avenue, MS 8B
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15062(a), 15103, 15375.

Project Title: Mathilda Avenue Improvements at SR 237 and US 101 Project

Project Location: City of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County, California

Project Description: The Project proposes to reconfigure lanes on Mathilda Avenue and modify the US 101/Mathilda Avenue and SR 237/Mathilda Avenue interchanges. The purpose of the Project is to reduce congestion on Mathilda Avenue, improve mobility for all travel modes, and provide better access to local destinations. The Project is needed to address existing roadway deficiencies including closely spaced intersections and uncontrolled ramp movements.

This notice is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the City of Sunnyvale, will be the lead agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Mathilda Avenue Improvements at SR 237 and US 101 Project. Your participation as a responsible agency is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

We are also interested to hear general public views on the scope and content of the environmental document.

A more detailed project description, location map, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

A copy of the Initial Study (___is) (___is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please mail or e-mail your response to Jamie Le Dent, Branch Chief, 111 Grand Avenue MS 8B, Oakland, CA 94612, CA or jamie.ledent@dot.ca.gov.

Date 8/12/2015
Signature
Title Branch Chief
Notice of Preparation
of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

Introduction
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the City of Sunnyvale, propose to improve Mathilda Avenue in the City of Sunnyvale from Almanor Avenue to Innovation Way, including on- and off-ramp improvements at the State Route (SR) 237/Mathilda Avenue and US 101/Mathilda Avenue interchanges. The Project limits are shown in Figure 1.

Purpose and Need
The purpose of the Mathilda Avenue Improvements at SR 237 and US 101 Project is to:

- Reduce congestion and improve traffic operations along Mathilda Avenue and at the SR 237/Mathilda Avenue and US 101/Mathilda Avenue interchanges.
- Improve mobility for all travel modes in the area including motor vehicles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians.
- Provide standard crosswalks and sidewalks along Mathilda Avenue, improving access to local destinations such as Moffett Park, the VTA LRT stations, and downtown Sunnyvale.

The Project is needed for the following reasons:

- Regional growth and new local development combined with inefficient roadway operations has resulted in substantial traffic congestion on Mathilda Avenue.
- Efficient access for all travel modes into and out of downtown Sunnyvale and development to the north of SR 237 is critical to a healthy and sustainable economy. Congestion on Mathilda Avenue adversely affects the economic vitality of the City of Sunnyvale.

Overall, the Project is needed to address several issues in the Project area including roadway deficiencies, lack of or discontinuous bicycle and pedestrian access, improvement of local roadway and freeway ramp operations, and provision of access to current and future economic development.

Project Description and Alternatives
The Project alternatives that were developed to meet the purpose and need of the Project are Build Alternative 1, Build Alternative 2, and the No-Build Alternative (refer to Figure 2). Under the No-Build Alternative, no changes would be made to the existing local roadways or freeway system within the Project limits. No construction activities would occur, and there would be no change in the operations of the existing facilities.

The design features of the two (2) Build Alternatives include reconfiguration of the US 101 and SR 237 interchanges with Mathilda Avenue. This includes ramp modifications; removal, addition and modification of signalized intersections; pavement rehabilitation; and enhanced bicycle and pedestrian
facilities. In addition, the Build Alternatives would require modification to utilities, storm water facilities, street lighting, ramp metering, and signage.

Roadway Improvements

The Build Alternatives would consist of the following roadway improvements:

- Provide three continuous through lanes in each direction of Mathilda Avenue
- Remove northbound US 101 loop off-ramp and shift traffic to northbound US 101 diagonal off-ramp
- Realign and widen northbound ramps and signalize ramp intersection with Mathilda Avenue, and construct left-turn lane on southbound Mathilda Avenue to access northbound US 101 loop on-ramp
- Realign southbound US 101 off-ramp and loop on-ramp and signalize ramp intersection with Mathilda Avenue
- Modify Mathilda Avenue / Ross Drive signal intersection
- Close Moffett Park Drive between Bordeaux Drive and Mathilda Avenue and shift traffic to Bordeaux Drive and Innovation Way
- Remove westbound SR 237 ramp signal intersection. Realign westbound SR 237 off-ramp opposite Moffett Park Drive and modify signal intersection
- Build Alternative 1 would modify westbound SR 237 ramps to provide a diamond configuration (see Figure 2a)
- Build Alternative 2 would modify Mathilda Avenue and SR 237 ramps to provide a diverging diamond configuration (see Figure 2b and Figure 3). Eastbound Moffett Park Drive between Innovation Way and Mathilda Way would be diverted to Innovation Way to access Mathilda Avenue

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

A Class III bicycle route is proposed on both sides of Mathilda Avenue between Almanor Avenue and Innovation Way. The bicycle lanes would connect with the existing signed on-street bicycle route north of Innovation Way. Bicycle access would also be maintained on Moffett Park Drive between Bordeaux Drive and Innovation Way.

Continuous sidewalks would be provided along both sides of Mathilda Avenue except on the west side of Mathilda between Ross Drive and Moffett Park Drive due to width restrictions at the SR 237 Undercrossing. Crosswalks would be maintained at Ross Drive and Moffett Park Drive to allow pedestrians to cross Mathilda Avenue. New crosswalks at ramp intersections would be signalized.

Probable Environmental Effects

Based on preliminary surveys and information, Caltrans has identified the following main subject areas for analysis in the EIR. The scope of environmental analysis will be modified based on input from this NOP and project scoping.

Air Quality

An air quality conformity analysis will be conducted to quantify the effects of the Project on the ambient air quality of the project study area and the region. An Air Quality Study Report will be completed and summarized in the environmental document along with suggested Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to air quality during construction.
Biological Resources

A study will be conducted to determine which wildlife or plant species habitat, if any, are likely to be found within the project study area. The environmental document will summarize this study and any associated mitigation measures, and include a discussion of trees that could potentially be impacted by the Project.

Community Impacts

Potential social, economic, public services, land use and growth impacts will be discussed and addressed in the environmental document, including potential community concerns during construction of the Project.

Cultural Resources

Identification and analysis of historic and archaeological resources within or adjacent to the project study area will be conducted and addressed in the environmental document.

Geology and Soils

A Preliminary Geological Assessment of existing geological conditions (e.g., active faults, landslides, liquefiable soils) will be completed and summarized in the environmental document.

Hazardous Materials

An Initial Site Assessment will be prepared to determine if the Project has the potential to disturb contaminated sites in the project area. The results will determine if testing would be required prior to construction and would be summarized in the environmental document.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Short and long-term effects of the Project on water quality will be analyzed and summarized in the environmental document. This includes temporary water quality impacts resulting from construction activities.

Noise and Vibration

Current noise levels will be measured and future noise levels will be modeled based on proposed traffic operations. Project alternatives will be evaluated to determine if construction or operational noise or vibration impacts would occur on nearby land uses and summarized in the environmental document.

Visual

An assessment of visual and aesthetic effects (e.g., tree and vegetation removal, lighting) will be conducted and summarized in the environmental document.

Traffic and Transportation

Traffic analysis will focus on the improvements to operations on Mathilda Avenue that would result from the proposed Project. Potential impacts to bicycle and pedestrian circulation will also be analyzed and summarized in the environmental document.