



## NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** NVTa Board of Directors  
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**SUBJECT:** Soscol Junction Project Update

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Information only

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTa) and Caltrans are advancing one preferred alternative through the environmental process for the intersection at State Route (SR) 29 and SR 221 (Soscol) known as "Soscol Junction". In coordination with NVTa, Caltrans will recirculate the updated environmental document for review and public input. The project is on schedule to have a completed environmental document by the end of 2019.

### **OTHER OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Information only

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

### **STRATEGIC GOALS MET BY THIS PROPOSAL**

Goal 1 – Serve the transportation needs of the entire community regardless of age, income, or ability  
Goal 2 – Improve system safety in order to support all modes and serve all users  
Goal 3 – Use taxpayer dollars efficiently  
Goal 4 – Support Napa County's economic vitality  
Goal 5 – Minimize the energy and other resources required to move people and goods system

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## **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

### **Background**

The SR 29 and SR 221 intersection improvement project, commonly referred to as the Soscol Junction, has a long history. Caltrans is the lead agency for the environmental phase of the project. In April/May 2015 when Caltrans released the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for public review. Caltrans received some negative public comments on the proposed alternatives because the preferred alternative, the Soscol Flyover, removed access to Soscol Ferry Road and restricted bicycle and pedestrian movements at that intersection. The project was also very costly and was not context sensitive to Napa Valley. Consequently, the preferred project alternative did not move forward into the design phase. Since that time, NVTa has been working with Caltrans to identify viable project alternatives for the Soscol Junction project.

NVTa partnered with the City of Napa to have GHD/OmniMeans develop additional project alternatives that were bike and pedestrian friendly and maintained access to Soscol Ferry Road. The project is needed because the current signalized intersection routinely experiences extensive queues, resulting in long delays to travelers.

### **Current Status**

NVTa (with GHD) and Caltrans advanced the double roundabout alternative through the environmental process with the goal of issuing the environmental document to the public for comment on September 20, 2019 and completing the document by the end of the calendar year. The goal is to downgrade the environmental document from the original Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment to an Initial Study Report/Environmental Assessment. Caltrans environmental specialist are working to update their findings from 2015. The Traffic Operation Analysis Report (TOAR) was submitted to Caltrans for final approval on June 28, 2019. NVTa and Caltrans met with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Air Quality Conformity Task force, which included representatives from federal regulatory agencies to provide details about the project on June 27, 2019. During the meeting, the regulatory agency representatives confirmed that the proposed project is not a Project of Air Quality Concern. The Federal Highway Administration provided an official confirmation to this effect on 07/01/2019

### **Next Steps**

In the coming weeks a meeting with Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will discuss a recently discovered Fish Passage issue. Senate Bill 857 requires that Caltrans remediate barriers to fish passage when making changes to highway infrastructure. This could potentially add more than \$10 million to the existing projects cost. While Caltrans has committed to funding the additional cost, timing for when it is programmed could potentially delay the project, however, during the last Executive Steering Committee (ESC) meeting Caltrans proposed to complete the Fish Passage under Soscol Creek as part of a separate project which will be programmed in the future State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). Environmental documents are being prepared with the assumptions of a 14ft widening of the existing Soscol Creek Bridge and other options will be considered during Planning,

Specifications & Estimate (PS&E) phase, which may require minor modifications to the environmental document.

A video rendering of the Soscol Junction will be presented by Caltrans which provides a visualization of the preferred alternative and how vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian users will navigate the intersection.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None