



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TAC Agenda Letter

TO: Technical Advisory Committee
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SUBJECT: NVTA Project Updates Soscol Junction

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 Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment was released to the public on September 20, 2019 and a public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Soscol Gateway Transit Center. All comments on the environmental document are due on October 20, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

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 spring of 2015 Caltrans released the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for public review. Caltrans received several negative 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 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 the consultant firm 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 finalizing the document by the end of the calendar year.

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

NVTA will continue to work with Caltrans, City of Napa and Napa County to refine the cost estimate. NVTA will enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for NVTA to be the lead agency during the design phase.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None