



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

TAC Agenda Letter

TO: Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Kate Miller, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Rebecca Schenck, Principal Planner
(707) 259-8636 / Email: rschenck@nvta.ca.gov
SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Document for the Napa Valley Vine Trail Project
- St. Helena to Calistoga Segment

RECOMMENDATION

Information only. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will receive information on the Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Napa Valley Vine Trail Project – St. Helena to Calistoga Segment. The Environmental Document will be open to the public and all affected agencies for a 30-day comment period until July 27, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Napa Valley Vine Trail Project - St. Helena to Calistoga (Project). NVTA has prepared an IS/MND for the Project and is requesting comments from the public and all affected agencies.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) granted NVTA's request to be the CEQA Lead Agency for the Napa Valley Vine Trail – St. Helena to Calistoga Project (Project) in June of 2019. NVTA conducted the studies and assessed the environmental impacts of the project. Caltrans is still the CEQA responsible agency. Therefore, NVTA prepared and submitted the environmental documentation and necessary associated technical studies for Caltrans review and comments. Caltrans as well as State Parks and Middletown Rancheria have already commented on the Draft IS/MND.

Description

The Project will consist of an approximately 6.8 mile Class I bicycle and pedestrian trail within St. Helena and Napa County. The Napa Valley Vine Trail – St. Helena to Calistoga project would be located within California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way (ROW), State Park lands, existing easements, and easements to be granted from property owners. The St. Helena to Calistoga project would begin in St. Helena at the intersection of Pratt Avenue and State Route (SR) 29 at post mile (PM) 29.244 and extend to the north end where it would terminate at Dunaweal Lane east of SR 29 at PM 35.308 near the city limits of Calistoga.

The proposed path would be 10-feet wide with 2-foot shoulders for a total width of 14 feet in most locations, narrowing to a lesser width (minimum 8 feet) in constrained locations. In most locations the Vine Trail would be an asphalt trail installed over aggregate base, with gravel shoulders. With the exception of a portion of the Vine Trail through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, most of the proposed Vine Trail would be on the east side of SR 29. The majority of the project will be separated from SR 29, though a few portions of the proposed Trail would occur on the shoulder of SR 29.

An additional segment called the Fair Way Path Extension would be constructed at the same time as the proposed project. The Fair Way Extension would be a 0.6-mile Class I trail that extends north from an existing segment of the Napa Valley Vine Trail, from Washington Avenue in Calistoga to the intersection of Fair Way and Lincoln Avenue in Calistoga (east of SR 29 and approximately between PM 36.45 to 37.22). The Fair Way Path Extension was previously analyzed under CEQA and a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been approved by the City of Calistoga's Planning Commission (PC Resolution 2014-29; November 26, 2014).

CEQA Environmental Impacts

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, NVTa has prepared an Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). Based on the Initial Study, the project effects were found to have a less than significant impact on the environment with implementation of identified mitigation measures. CEQA requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the project location. Listed toxic sites are not present at the project location.

The public and all affected agencies are invited to review the Draft IS/MND and submit written comments. The IS/MND can be reviewed and accessed at:

<http://www.nvta.ca.gov/vinetrail>.

Usually hard copies would be available at the following locations:

- Napa Valley Transportation Authority, 625 Burnell Street, Napa, CA 94559
- St Helena Public Library, 1492 Library Ln #1143, St Helena, CA 94574

Due to current situation under the coronavirus related Shelter-in-Place policy, these locations are closed to the public. Therefore, if requested, a hard copy will be mailed to members of the public and agencies upon request.

Next Steps

After the comment period ends NVTa and its consultants will address the comments received and present a final IS/MND to the NVTa Board for adoption.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- (1) Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
- (2) Napa Valley Vine Trail Project – St. Helena to Calistoga Segment Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (due to file size, the document is available for review on the NVTa website at: <https://www.nvta.ca.gov/vinetrail>)

**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Napa Valley Vine Trail Project – St. Helena to Calistoga

Project Description and Location

The Napa Valley Vine Trail – St. Helena to Calistoga project would consist of an approximately 6.8-mile Class I bicycle and pedestrian trail within St. Helena and Napa County. The Napa Valley Vine Trail – St. Helena to Calistoga project would be located within California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way (ROW), State Park lands, existing easements, and easements to be granted from property owners. The St. Helena to Calistoga project would begin in St. Helena at the intersection of Pratt Avenue and State Route (SR) 29 at postmile (PM) 29.244 and extends to the north end where it would terminate at Dunaweal Lane east of SR 29 at PM 35.308 near the city limits of Calistoga.

The proposed path would be 10-feet wide with 2-foot shoulders for a total width of 14 feet in most locations, narrowing to a lesser width (minimum 8 feet) in constrained locations. In most locations the Vine Trail would be an asphalt trail installed over aggregate base, with gravel shoulders. With the exception of a portion of the Vine Trail through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, most of the proposed Vine Trail would be on the east side of SR 29. Most of the Vine Trail would be separated from SR 29, though a few portions of the proposed Vine Trail would occur on the shoulder of SR 29.

An additional segment called the Fair Way Path Extension would be constructed at the same time as the proposed project. The Fair Way Extension would be a 0.6-mile Class I trail that extends north from an existing segment of the Napa Valley Vine Trail, from Washington Avenue in Calistoga to the intersection of Fair Way and Lincoln Avenue in Calistoga (east of SR 29 and approximately between PM 36.45 to 37.22). The Fair Way Path Extension was previously analyzed under CEQA and a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been approved by the City of Calistoga's Planning Commission (PC Resolution 2014-29; November 26, 2014).

CEQA Environmental Impacts

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, NVRTA has prepared an Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). Based on the Initial Study, the project effects were found to have a less than significant impact on the environment with implementation of identified mitigation measures. CEQA requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the project location. Listed toxic sites are not present at the project location.

The public and all affected agencies are invited to review the Draft IS/MND and submit written comments. The IS/MND can be reviewed and accessed at: <http://www.nvta.ca.gov/vinetrail>. The thirty (30) day comment period is from June 26, 2020 to July 27, 2020. Usually hard copies would be available at the following locations:



- Napa Valley Transportation Authority, 625 Burnell Street, Napa, CA 94559
- St Helena Public Library, 1492 Library Ln #1143, St Helena, CA 94574

Due to current situation under the coronavirus related Shelter-in-Place policy, these locations are closed to the public. Therefore, if requested, a hard copy will be mailed to you. Please allow time for printing and delivery.

Public Review Period

The public review period will start on **June 26, 2020 and end on July 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** Please submit any comments in writing that you may have on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration by **July 27, 2020** to Rebecca Schenck at rschenck@nvta.ca.gov or mail comments to the following address.

**Napa Valley Transportation Authority
Attention of Rebecca Schenck
625 Burnell Street
Napa, CA 94559**

Public Hearing

Following the close of the public review period, a public hearing for the recommended adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approval of the project will be heard at a NVRTA Board of Director's meeting. Please check the Board Agenda at <http://www.nvta.ca.gov> for the scheduled hearing date and location.