



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Works		(2) MEETING DATE 4/23/2019		(3) CONTACT/PHONE Joshua R. Roberts Transportation Division Manager (805) 788-2345	
(4) SUBJECT Request approval of a letter of support to Caltrans regarding closure of median openings along State Highway 101 south of Arroyo Grande. District 4.					
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board authorize the letter of support to the Caltrans District 5 Director requesting closure of median openings along State Highway 101 south of Arroyo Grande and direct chairperson to sign.					
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Fund Center 24502 - Road Fund/Operations and Maintenance		(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$30,000.00		(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$40,000.00	
				(9) BUDGETED? Yes	
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)					
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A					
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A				(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP See Attached		(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No		(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW					
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 4					

Reference: 19.033



## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works  
Joshua R. Roberts, Transportation Division Manager  
Dave Flynn, Deputy Director of Public Works

VIA: Colt Esenwein, Director of Public Works

DATE: 4/23/2019

SUBJECT: Request approval of a letter of support to Caltrans regarding closure of median openings along State Highway 101 south of Arroyo Grande. District 4.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board authorize the letter of support to the Caltrans District 5 Director requesting closure of median openings along State Highway 101 south of Arroyo Grande and direct chairperson to sign.

### **DISCUSSION**

State Highway 101, between the interchanges of Los Berros Road and Traffic Way, is a conventional four lane highway. As such, the roadway has at-grade intersections serving one County road and several private property driveways. Conversion of this segment of State Highway 101 to a freeway is envisioned under the Regional Transportation Plan. However, that conversion is still decades out based on priorities, funding and planning requirements for the region. Caltrans had implemented a safety improvement project along this segment of State Highway 101 in 2012. The project installed a concrete median barrier throughout the corridor.

San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) hired a GHD December 2018 to perform a traffic assessment to determine the impact of closing the existing median openings.

Key components of the study were to:

- Determine alternative routes which current trips would travel if median closures occurred.
- Determine if significant delays would occur on these alternative routes based on these displaced trips.
- Determine if subsequent safety issues would potentially occur on the alternative routes.

Alternative routes included Halcyon Road near Arroyo Grande Hospital; and the West Branch Street/ Grande Avenue intersection. With median closure, approximately 400 trips per day would be diverted to these routes.

Results of the study indicate that for morning peak hour periods, additional travel delay and safety exposure is not significantly impacted.<sup>1</sup> For afternoon peak hour periods, the Grand Avenue/ West Branch Street intersection is the critical element and the analysis indicates a change in delay.<sup>2</sup> Los Berros Road interchange was also reviewed for displaced traffic with no expected change in operating conditions.

One alternative which has been disregarded was the complete closure of El Campo Road. Such a closure would eliminate any emergency ingress or egress from the adjoining neighborhood and would also force significant traffic onto the Fair Oaks Boulevard southbound off-ramp. El Campo Road would be restricted to right turns in and out from the southbound direction of State Highway 101.

SLOCOG held a public open house meeting on March 21, 2019 to gather comments on the traffic assessment and the potential closure of the median openings. The open house hosted approximately 100+ people. Subsequently, SLOCOG staff have received nearly 2,000 comments, with the overwhelming majority in support of median closure as evaluated in the traffic assessment. Laetitia Vineyard & Winery will be directly affected with the proposed closure. Southbound State Highway 101 traffic access to the winery would be through the Los Berros Road interchange. Staff is working with Caltrans traffic operations in evaluating converting the southbound off-ramp intersection at Los Berros Road to an all-way stop. That operation change would facilitate the winery access.

Based on the assessment, evaluation and consultation with the City of Arroyo Grande, Caltrans and SLOCOG; County Public Works recommends closure of the existing median openings be pursued. The attached letter to Caltrans District 5 Director will acknowledge support of the County to take this recommended action. Caltrans will move forward based on the authority of the Director. Caltrans would install a temporary closure plan at these four openings this summer. Subsequent programming of a permanent closure project would be done by Caltrans based on Minor Improvement Funds available. To expedite the temporary closure improvements, County Public Works will supply the necessary signage for Caltrans temporary closure.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

A traffic assessment, led by SLOCOG, involved on-going review and discussion with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the City of Arroyo Grande staff, and Caltrans' traffic planning and operations staff. Public outreach was handled through the agencies at a meeting held on March 21, 2019 at the Arroyo Grande Hospital.

SLOCOG approved the traffic assessment and supported action to close the median openings at their April 3, 2019 meeting. Concerns were expressed by the City of Arroyo Grande that SLOCOG, the County

---

<sup>1</sup> Current Level of Service (LOS) E at Valley Road/Fair Oaks intersection, LOS E projected at same intersection with diverted trips.

<sup>2</sup> Current LOS F at Grande Avenue/West Branch Street intersection. LOS F projected with some anticipated delay with diverted trips.

and Caltrans seek to collaborate on solutions to improve freeway access in order to improve local street traffic conditions.

The City of Arroyo Grande has stated concerns regarding the impact to existing intersection as well as the Traffic Way interchange operations. They do not object to median closures moving forward. The City of Arroyo Grande would like to see consideration and support for a future revision to the Traffic Way interchange in the 2019 Regional Transportation Plan. Such a modification to traffic could improve area circulation and potential access to El Campo Road. County staff will continue to work with City staff and Caltrans to partner on potential options and improvements.

Caltrans is the lead agency to implement changes to the median openings. CHP will enforce the new restrictions once in place.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

SLOCOG has funded \$30,000 and County Public Works has contributed up to \$30,000 under the Road Fund for the primary work of traffic assessment.

Caltrans will fund temporary and permanent closure to the median openings. County Public Works will provide the signs to facilitate closure this summer (with approximate dates to be determined). Signs are expected to cost approximately \$40,000. This is within the Road Fund's budgeted amount for this activity.

### **RESULTS**

By providing recommendations to Caltrans for median closure along this segment of State Highway 101, your Board will be providing for a safe and healthy community.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Vicinity Map
- 2 Executive Summary – SLOCOG Traffic Displacement Study
- 3 SLOCOG Staff Report Item A-1; April 3, 2019 Agenda
- 4 Proposed Letter of Support to Caltrans

c: Pete Rodgers – SLOCOG  
Jim Bergman – City of Arroyo Grande

File: Association – SLOCOG  
Caltrans – State Highway 101  
Road No. 1393

Reference: 19.033

L:\Management\2019\April\BOS\Letter of Support to Caltrans re El Campo Rd\Letter of Support to Caltrans re El Campo Rd brd ltr.docx.DF.mj