



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: August 19, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Director of Public Works, 568-3010
Contact Info: Dacé B. Morgan, Deputy Director of Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: Project Study Report for Purisima Road Widening Improvements; 4th Supervisorial District; County Project No. 830497

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive the attached Project Study Report and staff recommendations for Purisima Road Widening Improvements between Highway 1 and Highway 246 (SR 246), just north of the City of Lompoc, California; Third Supervisorial District; County Project No. 830497.

Summary Text:

A Project Study Report (PSR) was prepared to determine a probable alternative for improving Purisima Road between Highway 1 to SR 246 just north of the City of Lompoc. The report studied three roadway widening alternatives that would allow safe passage for both vehicle and bicycle traffic. Each alternative includes the criteria of providing standard lane widths and shoulders and providing bicycle lanes. The improvements are intended to better accommodate bicyclists, and thus encourage bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation, improve air quality, and increase safety. These improvements will be especially important since development is occurring in and around the City of Lompoc, and a substantial increase is expected in the number of vehicle trips relative to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system.

Both the Santa Barbara Bike Coalition and the Lompoc Valley Cycling Club have conveyed their interest and support for improvements to Purisima Road in the Lompoc Valley. Their hope is that the

installation of bike lanes will eliminate the “missing link” and provide safer bike access between both existing and planned bike facilities to the east and west of the project area.

Based on preliminary research, estimates, and design layouts prepared for the PSR, the preferred roadway alternative is Alternative 2, which runs from Highway 1 to SR 246. It provides the needed improvements for safely accommodating vehicular and bicycle traffic with less of an impact to the environment and existing infrastructure. Alternative 2, which would include two 1.5m (5ft) Class II bike lanes, a 3.4 to 3.6m (11 to 12- foot) westbound lane, and a 3.4 to 3.6m (11 to 12-foot) eastbound lane, proposes a new alignment, which shifts to the north and south of the existing alignment. In Alternative 2, shifting a portion of the alignment to the north allows the roadway to move away from an existing aqueduct and waterline and thus does not require the construction of a costly retaining wall. By shifting another portion of the alignment to the south, Alternative 2 avoids impacts to several native trees adjacent to the north side of Purisima Road. By reducing the impact to trees, less mitigation measures will be necessary and thus costs will be reduced. Alternative 2 will also have less adverse impacts on agricultural lands and existing drainage structures adjacent to or beneath the roadway. In addition to these advantages, it will utilize the safer, all-way controlled intersection improvements proposed by Caltrans at the SR 246/Purisima Road junction. These improvements will consist of either a traffic signal or roundabout and will be designed to accommodate bicyclists.

Based on the preliminary environmental evaluation, which identifies environmental issues and resources that could be affected by the widening of Purisima Road, environmental documentation including studies and permits will be necessary. Preparation of the environmental document and the ability to proceed with right of way negotiations, design, and ultimately construction, are contingent upon the availability of funding. The Department will continue to explore funding opportunities such as developer fees, State and Federal grants, the California Space Center, special programs, or other private funds. One of the reasons this document was created is to better position our application for these outside funding opportunities.

Background:

Purisima Road is classified as an Arterial Road in the Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan Circulation Element and a Major Arterial in the City of Lompoc Circulation Element. Presently, Class II bike lanes along Purisima Road are included in the County of Santa Barbara Bicycle Master Plan dated January 11, 2005.

In conjunction with the future developments planned by the City of Lompoc, as described in the Wye Specific Plan (SAIC, 2003), Class II bikeway routes are designated adjacent to planning sites along Highway 1 and along Harris Grade Road. A Class II bikeway is also designated along Purisima Road east of Highway 1 and along Burton Mesa Boulevard.

The existing road right of way is wide enough to accommodate Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 with minimal acquisition for a project of this length. The necessary acquisition area is less than 4,047sq.m (1-acre) per alternative. An area of 460 square meters (0.113 acre) is State Excess Land. With a recent opportunity to purchase this land, an Agreement for Purchase from the State of California, Department of Transportation was prepared for permanent right of way acquisition. On February 19, 2008, the County’s Board of Supervisors accepted a copy of the Director’s Deed, granting the County the excess

Caltrans' property for public roadway and utility purposes along Purisima Road and authorized the Clerk of the Board to execute the original Certificate of Acceptance.



Photo: Existing conditions at Purisima Road

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

All costs associated with the preparation of the PSR are from Prior Years. Prior year expenditures amount to \$147,000 and include a preliminary environmental assessment, land and aerial topographic surveys, initial studies, report preparation, and community outreach efforts. Funding for this project was provided by the Lompoc Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The funds for Prior Year expenditures were budgeted in Dept 054, Program 2050, Fund 1512, Org 0014, Account 6000.

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4th Supervisorial District.
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Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
None

FTEs:
None

Special Instructions:

Please forward a certified, stamped copy of the Minute Order approving these recommendations to Beverly Cross in the Public Works Department Roads and Engineering Division at 123 E. Anapamu Street and to Diana Estorga in the North County Public Works office at 620 W. Foster Road in Santa Maria.

Attachments:

Project Study Report for Purisima Road Widening Improvements, 4th Supervisorial District, County Project No. 830497

Authored by:

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Diana Estorga, Project Engineer, 739-8763