

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Milpas to Hot Spring Operational Improvements: Construction Update

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 6D

STAFF CONTACT: Fred Luna

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a progress report and construction update on the Highway 101 Milpas-Cabrillo Hot Springs project.

DISCUSSION:

In July 2008, construction began on the Highway 101/Milpas to Cabrillo-Hot Springs Operational Improvements. The project was split into four stages of construction, with the total anticipated time for completing construction being four years. Most of the key work was front loaded in Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Now 22 months into the construction timeframe, significant progress has been achieved on the project. Some of the major accomplishments that have been achieved are:

- Montecito Roundabout and Old Coast Hwy Sidewalk and Parkway
- Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Sycamore Creek Bridge
- Stage 1 of the Milpas St. Bridge
- Opening of new southbound 101 Milpas St Hook off-ramp and Improved SB 101 on-ramp
- Sound Walls at Tennis Stadium and from Salinas St. to Milpas St. (along trailer parks)
- Construction of paving for NB 101 Auxiliary Lane from Cabrillo to Salinas St (to be opened soon)
- Stage 1 construction at Cacique Street Under-crossing and improvements to NB 101 off-ramp at Milpas St.
- Improvements to southbound and northbound 101 ramps at Hot Springs Rd./Cabrillo Blvd.
- Construction of the Hwy 101 southbound third lane between Milpas St. and ½ mile past Hot Springs Rd., including new safety barriers and drainage improvements in the median and shoulder areas

Staff continues to lead the community relations outreach effort that produces weekly construction updates to the public and other stakeholders, and regular meets with citizen groups and businesses. Also, staff continues to coordinate meetings with the Caltrans construction team and City of Santa Barbara representatives to review construction issues ahead of time.

Staff has included a photo summary of progress on the project to date. This is an information item to update the board on the progress of the project.

Highway 101/Milpas to Cabrillo-Hot Springs Construction Photo Report May 2010

Montecito Roundabout and Old Coast Hwy Sidewalk and Parkway: The Montecito Roundabout was completed in October/November 2009 after a year of construction. The improvements to traffic circulation have been dramatic. Architectural treatments such as sandstone walls and city-adopted lighting fixtures, plus robust, native landscaping have been well received by the public.



New SB 101 Milpas St Hook off-ramp and Improved SB 101 on-ramp: Milpas Street is one of the most heavily used streets and ramps in the City of Santa Barbara. Part of the project included ramp improvements. The new SB 101 off-ramp, for downtown traffic has been opened and improvements at the intersection with Milpas Street (near the railroad tracks) have been completed.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Sycamore Creek Bridge: The Sycamore Creek Bridge has been a critical element in the construction of the project as work on the bridge has been divided into 3 stages and each stage has seasonal work windows (June to November) due to the environmental sensitivity of the creek. Despite these constraints, work has progressed nicely and is on-schedule. Stage 2 work was completed in early 2010 and Stage 3 is anticipated to begin in June 2010.



Highway 101/Milpas to Cabrillo-Hot Springs Construction Photo Report May 2010

Stage 1 of the Milpas St Bridge: It has been a challenge working in a very constrained environment between the northbound and southbound 101 bridges over Milpas St. Two lanes of traffic on Highway 101 had to be maintained in both directions except for special circumstances during certain pile driving operations. The median bridge (Stage 1) was completed in early 2010 and this allowed southbound 101 traffic to be switched on this new bridge segment and the existing SB 101 bridge to be demolished (shown in photo). Construction of the Stage 2 bridge has commenced.



Sound Walls at Tennis Stadium and from Salinas St. to Milpas St. (along trailer parks): Work on the sound walls along the tennis stadium and along the trailer parks and SB off ramp at Milpas St were advanced by nearly a year in the original construction schedule. The tennis stadium soundwall was completed in summer 2009 and the remaining sound walls in this area will be completed by June 2010. The sound walls in some areas contain the flood panel openings. A subsequent landscaping contract that will commence in late summer 2010 will plant

vines and shrubs to help soften the appearance of the walls.

Stage 1 construction at Cacique Street Under-crossing and improvements to northbound 101 off-ramp at Milpas St.:

The work to construct a new connection from the eastside to the beach at Cacique Street is an important local component to the project. Stage 1 work was underway during most of 2009, which consisted of constructing a new Milpas St northbound off-ramp. This work is now complete and can be seen from Alisos St. Work will continue on subsequent stages from the Milpas St side over the next year.

