

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Hilda Lafebre, Manager, Capital Projects & Environmental Planning
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Re: Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project – Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Dear Hilda Lafebre:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the November 2020 Draft IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The purpose of the proposed project is to address the structural deficiencies of the MT-1 bridge and the geomorphic instability of the Guadalupe River channel in the vicinity of the MT-1 and MT-2 bridges to provide for long-term public safety and service reliability. The major elements of the project include replacement of the 1935 MT-1 bridge with a new 265-foot pre-case concrete structure, extending the southern end of the MT-2 bridge by 90 feet, and widening the river channel to reduce the risk of scour and bank failure issues during storm events. The rail bridges are located immediately East of State Route (SR)-87 and 0.5 miles South of Interstate (I)-280.

Construction-Related Impacts

Please be advised that the contractor needs to be aware of the 15 feet 6 inches (15'-6") clearance under the railroad bridge and Willow Street UC (37-0422L/R) on Willow Street to avoid a high-load hit on the structure when bringing the construction equipment to the construction staging sites.

Security lighting for the contractor construction/storage yard needs to be placed such that it does not distract or blind freeway traffic at night. Lighting must not distract or blind freeway traffic at night if night work is allowed.

Placement of Rock Slope Protection (RSP) along the abutment 1 for structures M1 and M2 should be imbedded into the existing river band/ abutment slope so the RSP would not reduce the cross-sectional flow of the Guadalupe River.

Please place mud/debris removal rumble strips at all access points to the McLellan Avenue, Virginia Street and Willow Street to avoid tracking mud/rocks/debris from the construction site onto the public roads. Please install erosion control devices along the perimeter bordering Caltrans property as well as seed all slopes to mitigate erosion.

In addition, please rebuild all fencing within the State Right-of-Way (ROW) affected during construction operations.

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on state roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the STN. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto the ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating the State ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

To download the permit application and to obtain more information on all required documentation, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Yunsheng Luo at Yunsheng.Luo@dot.ca.gov. Additionally, for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please contact LDIGR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse