



# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Study Results Available) And Opportunity for a Public Hearing

**Do you want a public hearing for the operational improvements and rehabilitation on State Route 198 and State Route 216 in the city of Visalia?**

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Comments will be accepted from **March 5, 2021 through April 3, 2021**. If there are no major comments or requests for a hearing, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

### WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with the City of Visalia is proposing several operational improvements on State Route 198 and State Route 216 in Tulare County. The operational improvements consist of widening Lovers Lane below the State Route 198 undercrossing between the State Route 198 eastbound on- and off-ramps and Mineral King Avenue. Additional work would improve four intersections: Lovers Lane (State Route 216) at Mineral King Avenue, Lovers Lane at State Route 198 on the eastbound on-ramps and off-ramps, Lovers Lane at Noble Avenue, and State Route 198 on the westbound on-ramps and off-ramps at Mineral King Avenue. The project would also extend the life of the pavement along State Route 216 (Lovers Lane) by rehabilitating the pavement and including all pertinent standards as required by the 3R Program (resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation). State Route 216 (Houston Avenue) between Lovers Lane and McAuliff Avenue would be overlaid to extend the service life of the roadway.

### WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains the reason for this determination is called an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. This public notice is to inform you that an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment for the project is now available for you to review and comment on. This notice also offers you an opportunity to request a public hearing.

### WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Beginning March 5, 2021, the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment will be available for review at the following locations:

- Caltrans District Office at 1352 W. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728, Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Visalia Adult School at 3110 East Houston Avenue, Visalia, CA 93292, Monday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Tuesday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Visalia City Hall East at 315 East Acequia Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- This document can also be downloaded at the following website: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-6>

### WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

Do you have any comments about processing the project with an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment? Would you care to make any other comment on the project? Do you want a public hearing regarding changes proposed by the project? Please submit your comments in writing by U.S. mail or email no later than April 3, 2021 to Caltrans Environmental Planning, Attention: Richard Putler, Senior Environmental Planner, 2015 E Shields Avenue, Suite #200, Fresno CA, 93726, or email [richard.putler@dot.ca.gov](mailto:richard.putler@dot.ca.gov). The date Caltrans will begin accepting comments is March 5, 2021. If there are no major comments, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

### CONTACT

For more information about this project, please contact Hussein Senan, Project Manager, at (559) 243-3586, or by email at [husein.senan@dot.ca.gov](mailto:husein.senan@dot.ca.gov) or Richard Putler, Senior Environmental Planner, at (559) 304-6599 or by email at [richard.putler@dot.ca.gov](mailto:richard.putler@dot.ca.gov). For other state highway matters, please contact the District 6 Public Affairs Office at (559) 444-2409.

### SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, individuals who require accommodation (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) are requested to contact the Caltrans District 6 Public Affairs Office by email: [D6.Public.Info@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D6.Public.Info@dot.ca.gov) or by phone: (559) 444-2409. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may call 1-800-735-2929 or contact the California Relay Service TTY voice line by dialing 711.

