

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

740 Renz Lane
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July 29, 2024

File No.: 725.15606

City of Hollister
339 Fifth Street
Hollister, CA 95023

Subject: SCH 2021040277

The California Highway Patrol, Hollister-Gilroy Area received the Revised July 2024 – *Hollister 2040 General Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Agricultural Lands Preservation Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report*, State Clearing House (SCH) number 2021040277. After review, we have some concerns as previously described in a June 2023 response letter from this command, see enclosed for reference.

Our concern relates to the lack of detail provided for the proposed Bus-On-Shoulder concept, see draft page 586. Without the opportunity to: review details regarding the specific location(s) and day(s)/time(s) for planned use; evaluate plans for traffic control devices to be installed; and assess plans for motorist education to ensure safe implementation of the concept, none of which are described in the revised draft, the previously articulated concerns offered by this command remain.

Should you have any questions regarding these concerns, or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Captain Noel Coady at (408) 427-0700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N. C. Coady, ID 15606".

N. C. COADY, Captain
Commander

Enclosure

cc: Coastal Division



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

Hollister-Gilroy Area
740 Renz Lane
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 427-0700



June 21, 2023

File No.: 725.14548.17803

City of Hollister
339 Fifth Street
Hollister, CA 95023
Attention: Eva Kelly, Interim Planning Manager

SCH: 2021040277

I was recently requested to review the Notice of Environmental Impact document from the State Clearinghouse (SCH) related to the Hollister 2040 General Plan. After reviewing SCH# 2021040277, as well as the information and procedures outlined in General Order 41.2, *Environmental Impact Documents*, the Hollister-Gilroy Area does not believe the addition of bicycle paths within the City of Hollister will adversely affect traffic-related matters in the area. The Hollister-Gilroy Area is opposed to the bus-on-shoulder concept of this project. Motorists involved in traffic crashes, experiencing medical emergencies, or who have mechanical troubles, are instructed to move to the shoulder and out of the traffic lanes. Peace officers respond to these incidents make all efforts to move the involved vehicles off the freeway or to the right shoulder to minimize secondary traffic crashes and the associated risks. When officers make traffic stops on the freeway, drivers pull to the shoulder and stop, as they are instructed to do in driving classes and per California Vehicle Code §21806. Based on past experiences in San Benito and Santa Clara counties, if busses (or other vehicles) are allowed to drive on the shoulder, other motorists will undoubtedly follow suit, creating an additional lane and removing the availability of the shoulder for true emergencies. Busses driving on the shoulders, and the inevitable vehicles which follow them, may cause confusion for other motorists and result in an increase of traffic related crashes in the area. Additionally, Appendix F, exhibit 5, identifies a Class III Bicycle Path along SR-25. These scenarios have the potential of making the roadways more dangerous and increasing liability for the State and all involved government agencies. Authorizing any vehicle to drive on the shoulder will cause an undue safety hazard to the motoring public, road workers, and peace officers working in the area. If the bus-on-shoulder program were to progress, additional discussion would be needed to develop proper procedures regulating specific times or scenarios which would allow busses to use the shoulder as well as the speeds at which they would be allowed to travel. The Hollister-Gilroy CHP Area has concerns with this overall project.



The Hollister-Gilroy Area supports the construction of a Class I Bicycle Path adjacent to the existing railway. The Hollister-Gilroy Area recommends additional safety measures be considered for the proposed bicycle path along the existing railway to ensure the safety of the bicyclist and the passenger/freight trains.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (408) 427-0700.

Sincerely,

P. Cooper
P. COOPER, Captain
Commander

