

Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

U.S. 101/Produce Avenue Interchange Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 4 is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and a joint Environmental Assessment (EA) to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to notify agencies, organizations, and individuals of this intent, and request input on the scope and content of the proposed EIR/EA.

Scoping Period for Receipt of Comments

Comments must be received by September 9, 2021. Send written comments to:

Caltrans District 4
Attn: Tanvi Gupta
P.O. Box 23660, MS 8B
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Or by email to: Tanvi.Gupta@dot.ca.gov

Virtual Scoping Meeting

A virtual scoping meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. At the meeting, attendees can ask questions about the project. However, questions and discussion at the meeting are not considered scoping comments and all scoping comments must be submitted by mail, e-mail, or at the project website to be shared with the entire project development team. Attendance at the virtual scoping meeting is not required to submit comments. Please visit <http://www.ssf.net/101Produce> for more information about the project and to join the virtual scoping meeting.

Project Description

The City of South San Francisco, and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA), are the sponsors of the US 101/Produce Avenue Interchange Project (the project), located in the City of South San Francisco, San Mateo County. The project area is shown in Figure 1. The California Department of Transportation is the lead agency responsible for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and approval.

The project is considering one Build Alternative and a No Build alternative. The Build Alternative would include a new US 101 overcrossing extending from the Utah Avenue/South Airport Boulevard intersection to San Mateo Avenue (referred to as the Utah Avenue extension). The overcrossing would provide two lanes in each direction as well as sidewalks and Class II bike lanes.

The intersections at S. Airport Boulevard/Utah Avenue and San Mateo Avenue/Utah Avenue would also be reconstructed to include turning lanes and connect to the new overcrossing. The Airport Boulevard/Produce Avenue/San Mateo Avenue intersection would be modified, or reconstructed, to include new through lanes and turning lanes.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

The Build Alternative would include the following new bicycle and pedestrian facilities:

- Class II bike lanes would be constructed in each direction on Utah Avenue between San Mateo Avenue and South Airport Boulevard. Bike lanes would also extend for several hundred feet north and south on South Airport Boulevard and Utah Avenue east of South Airport Boulevard.
- Sidewalks would be constructed on the overcrossing and would extend along Utah Avenue on both sides of US 101 connecting to pedestrian facilities at the Utah Avenue/San Mateo Avenue intersection west of US 101 and the Utah Avenue/South Airport Boulevard intersection east of US 101.
- Signalized crosswalks would be constructed at the intersections of Utah Avenue/South Airport Boulevard and Utah Avenue/San Mateo Avenue.
- The signals at the intersections of Airport Boulevard and Produce Avenue and Produce and San Mateo Avenue would be modified. Class II bike lanes would be added to San Mateo Avenue and South Airport Boulevard at these intersections to separate bikes from vehicles making right turns. Sidewalks and pedestrian crossings would be provided in all directions (with the exception of the southbound freeway off and on ramps connecting to S. Airport Boulevard).

All project improvements would be designed following the applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Property Acquisitions and Changes

No residential property acquisitions or residential temporary construction easements are currently anticipated as part of the project. However, the Build Alternative may require full or partial property acquisitions, as well as permanent easements to accommodate the proposed overcrossing structure and intersection improvements. Non-residential temporary construction easements may also be required as part of the Build Alternative.

No Build (No Action) Alternative

The No Build Alternative assumes no modifications would be made to the current Utah Avenue or improvements made to local roadway intersections, other than routine maintenance and rehabilitation of the facility and any currently planned and programmed projects within the City of South San Francisco.

The No Build Alternative would not alleviate current and future traffic or improve traffic on local streets. It would not enhance vehicular, pedestrian or bicycle safety and would not provide a local east-west connection across US 101 to help serve commercial and pedestrian traffic.

Anticipated Permits and Approvals

The following environmental permits and approvals have been identified as potentially be required for project construction:

- **Bay Area Air Quality Task Force:** Demonstration of the project's conformity to Clean Air Act and other requirements.
- **State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO):** Concurrence on findings with respect to historic resources and requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- **San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB Region 2):** Section 401 Water Quality Certification; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) approval for work greater than one acre.

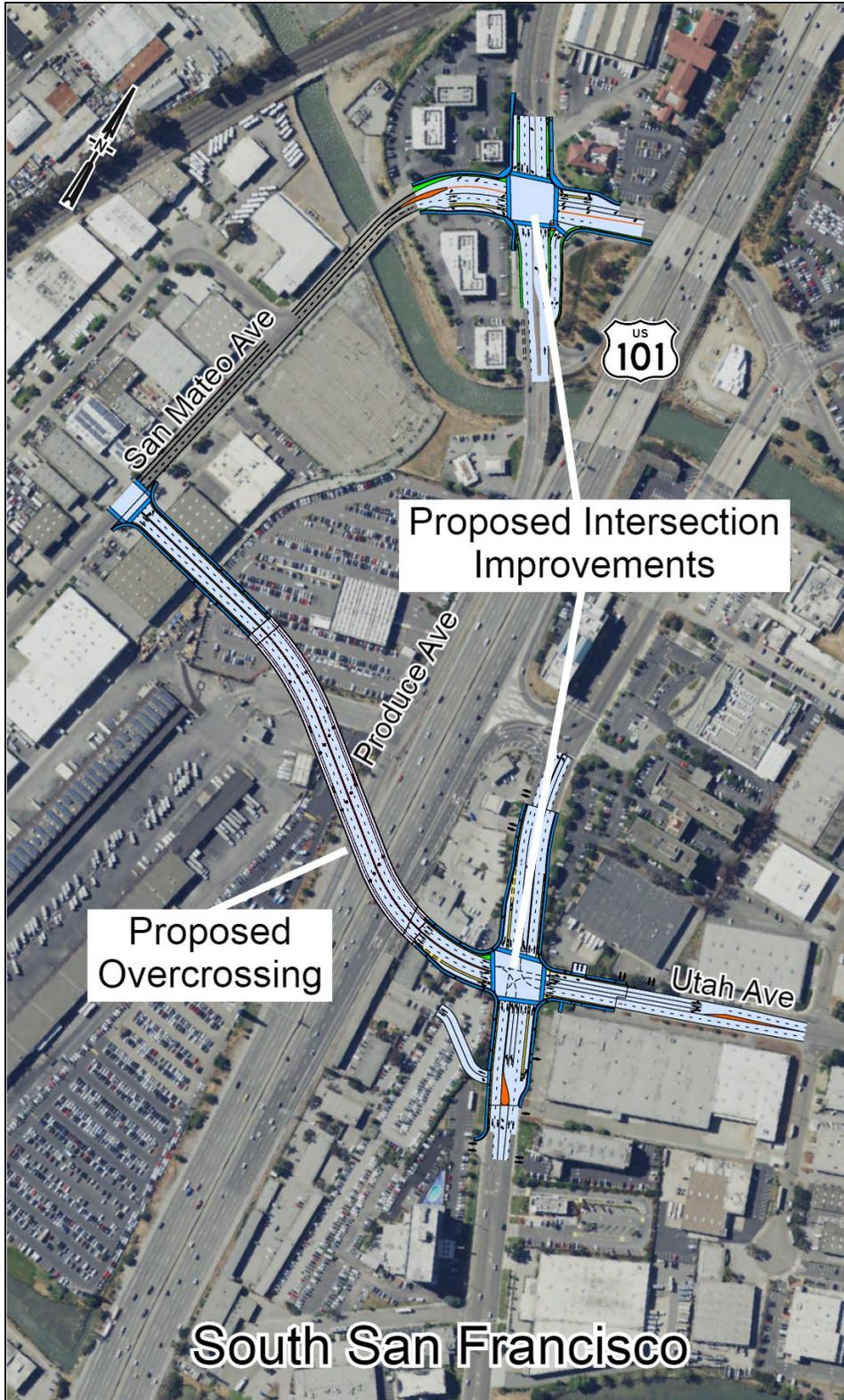


Figure 1: Project Location Map

Potential Environmental Effects/Topics to be Studied

Based on preliminary surveys and information, Caltrans identified the following main subject areas for analysis in the EIR/EA. The scope of environmental analysis could be modified based on input from this Notice of Preparation and project scoping.

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Climate Change
- Community
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Noise
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Paleontology
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Travel
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance Construction-Related Impacts