

**Notice of Preparation of a
Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report
for the Centennial Corridor
Southbound State Route 99 and Westbound State Route 58 Connector Project**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Lead Agency, is preparing an environmental document to address impacts associated with the proposed construction of a connector at the westbound State Route 58 and southbound State Route 99 interchange in Bakersfield, California. The document will be prepared as a joint document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Caltrans will be preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the Centennial Corridor project. As required by CEQA, Caltrans is distributing this Notice of Preparation and requesting comments from responsible and trustee agencies regarding the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and reasonable mitigation measures that will be discussed in the Supplemental EIR/EA.

Project Location

The project sits at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley in the city of Bakersfield in Kern County, California at the State Route 58 and State Route 99 freeway interchange near Stockdale Highway. See Figure 1 for a location map and Figure 2 for a vicinity map of the project area.

Project Description

The project would construct a freeway-to-freeway connector at the State Route 58 and State Route 99 interchange. The connector would enable traffic to go from the southbound State Route 99 freeway off-ramp just north of Stockdale Highway, travel along a direct connector on a curved alignment in the northwest quadrant of the interchange, and move onto westbound State Route 58 on the new freeway alignment. The connector would provide a final connector movement between State Route 99 and State Route 58 at the freeway interchange that will allow for truck and auto traffic to avoid the local street system for the transition from one highway to another.

Project Alternatives

A build alternative and a no-build alternative are being considered for the project.

Potential Environmental Effects

Based on preliminary surveys and information, Caltrans has identified the following subject areas for analysis in the Environmental Impact Report:

Air Quality

Kern County is in nonattainment status for the State ozone and particulate matter (PM 10 and PM 25) standards. A project-level air conformity and a particulate matter hot spot analysis are needed.

Operational and construction climate change emissions will need to be estimated because the project is considered a capacity-increasing project.

This project will require interagency consultation and an air quality study.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The project would not achieve the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions for 2030. Capacity-increasing projects require a quantitative analysis using emission factors models developed from the air resources board to estimate greenhouse gas emissions.

Vehicle Miles Traveled

The project would likely lead to a measurable and substantial increase in vehicle travel on State Route 99. The project would need to quantify the amount of additional vehicle travel in order to assess air quality impacts, greenhouse gas emissions impacts, energy impacts, and noise impacts. If those effects are significant, Caltrans will need to consider mitigation or alternatives. In the context of increased travel that is induced by capacity increases, appropriate mitigation and alternatives that Caltrans might consider include the following:

- Converting existing general purpose lanes to High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes
- Implementing or funding off-site travel demand management
- Implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) strategies to improve passenger throughput on existing lanes

Figures

Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map



Figure 2: Project Location Map

