

State Route 132 West *Freeway/Expressway*

Newsletter
June 2014

This newsletter is being sent to provide you with an update on the State Route 132 West Freeway/Expressway Project (SR-132 West) and the progress made in the Project Approval & Environmental Document (PA & ED) process.

Project Background

The SR-132 West project proposes to improve two vital transportation corridors within Stanislaus County: existing SR-132 (Maze Boulevard) and State Route 99 (SR-99). The two-lane conventional highway provides an interregional connection between Interstate 5 near the City of Tracy to the west and SR-99 in Modesto to the east. SR-132 is the only east-west highway with access across the Tuolumne, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus rivers from Modesto. As such, SR-132 has increasingly served the San Joaquin Valley and has become a major truck route between Interstate 5 and SR-99.

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Project History

1956

The proposed freeway corridor for SR-132 was adopted by the State with resolutions of support from Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto.

1958

The State allocated funds for right-of-way and proceeded with the acquisition of all but a few parcels.

Post-1958

Caltrans prepared three Project Study Reports (in 1991, 1993, and 1997) to determine alternatives to study and evaluate.

1998 – 2003

Efforts were made to achieve consensus on a buildable segment and progressed to a Value Analysis Study in 2003, when the project was placed on hold due to the need for additional system traffic planning studies.

2008

Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) completed a Feasibility Study for the SR-132 East/West Connectivity Project in which various SR-132 improvements are identified to improve east-west connectivity in Modesto.

2009

StanCOG completed a Project Initiation Document, which established the project scope for use in planning the next formal studies for the PA & ED Phase. PA & ED is where we are now.



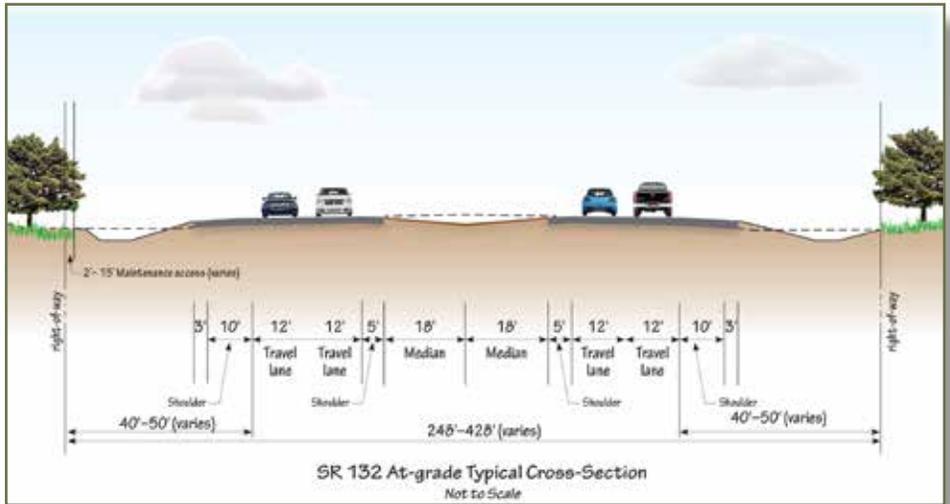
The Project

SR-132 West Project proposes to construct a four-lane freeway/expressway on a new alignment in Stanislaus County and in the City of Modesto from SR-99 just south of Kansas Avenue west to near Dakota Avenue. The project proposes to implement either of two build alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) or a No-Build Alternative. Both build alternatives would construct a new four-lane freeway/expressway from Dakota Avenue on the west end of the project to east of SR-99 at the Needham Street Overcrossing Bridge on the east end of the project.

The major differences between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 would involve the construction of a southbound SR-99 Needham Street off-ramp (Alternative 1) compared to the reconstruction of a southbound SR-99 Kansas Avenue off-ramp (Alternative 2). Under a No-Build Alternative, existing SR-132 (Maze Boulevard) would remain a two-lane, conventional highway.

SR-132 West improvements include providing freeway-to-freeway branch connections from and to SR-99 and a portion of the ultimate freeway corridor west of SR-99, as well as a proposed direct connection from SR-132 to Needham Street, connecting to downtown Modesto. The Needham Street connection requires a new public road connection approval by the California Transportation Commission.

In addition to the primary project elements, construction of the project proposes to encapsulate approximately 160,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil near the SR-132/SR-99 interchange. The soil was generated during excavation of industrial property that was purchased to construct the Modesto bypass during the 1960s. Contaminants in the soil include barium, strontium, and lead. The contaminated soil is within three soil stockpiles that exist in Caltrans right-of-way south of Kansas Avenue and within the proposed location for the project.



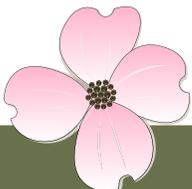
Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to improve regional and interregional circulation, relieve traffic congestion along existing SR-132 (Maze Boulevard), and enhance safety and operations for the existing and proposed transportation network.

Motorists are experiencing a high level of congestion due to the limitations of the existing facilities, as well as an increase in interregional commuter and truck traffic. Also, the connectivity of SR-99 and SR-132 requires travel through residential and commercial areas of Modesto. Additionally, uncontrolled access to schools, churches, businesses, and residences along this roadway add to the slow-moving traffic and increase the potential for conflicts between bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles. SR-132 within the project limits has accident rates higher than the statewide average for similar highways.

Project Team

Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act, and is working in cooperation with StanCOG, the City of Modesto, Stanislaus County, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.



Project Phasing

The project would consist of two construction phases: the initial construction phase and the ultimate build-out. The initial construction phase is anticipated to begin in 2016 and to be completed within 12 to 15 months. The ultimate build-out is expected to be complete by 2028.

The initial construction phase would do the following:

- Construct general purpose lanes from Dakota Avenue to SR-99
- Construct the SR-132 and North Carpenter Road interchange (to include the eastbound SR-132 off-ramp and the westbound SR-132 on-ramp)
- Construct the SR-132 West/Sixth Street and SR-132/Fifth Street extensions
- Construct various other improvements
- Encapsulate the soil stockpiles, as described in a Remedial Action Plan

The Remedial Action Plan will be available for public review with the draft environmental document, scheduled for January 2015.

The ultimate build-out would do the following:

- Complete related SR-99 improvements
- Construct direct-connector ramps

Project Funding

The anticipated cost of the project is \$140 million to \$170 million. A combination of federal, state, and local funds has been secured for the initial construction phase.

What's Next?

Later this year, a Public Information Meeting, will be held. A public hearing will be held in early 2015 to gather feedback and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment.

Project Schedule

Initial Construction Phase

2015	Complete Project Approval and Environmental Document
2016	Obtain Right-of-Way Certification
2016	Ready-to-List for Construction
2016	Approve Construction Contract
2016	Begin Construction
2018	Complete Initial Construction Phase

Ultimate Project

2024	Approve Construction Contract
2028	Complete Project

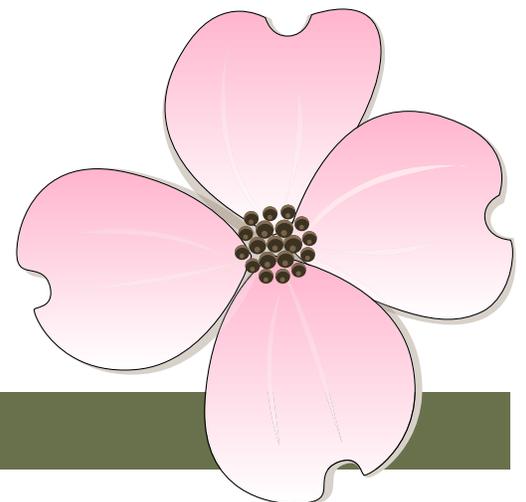
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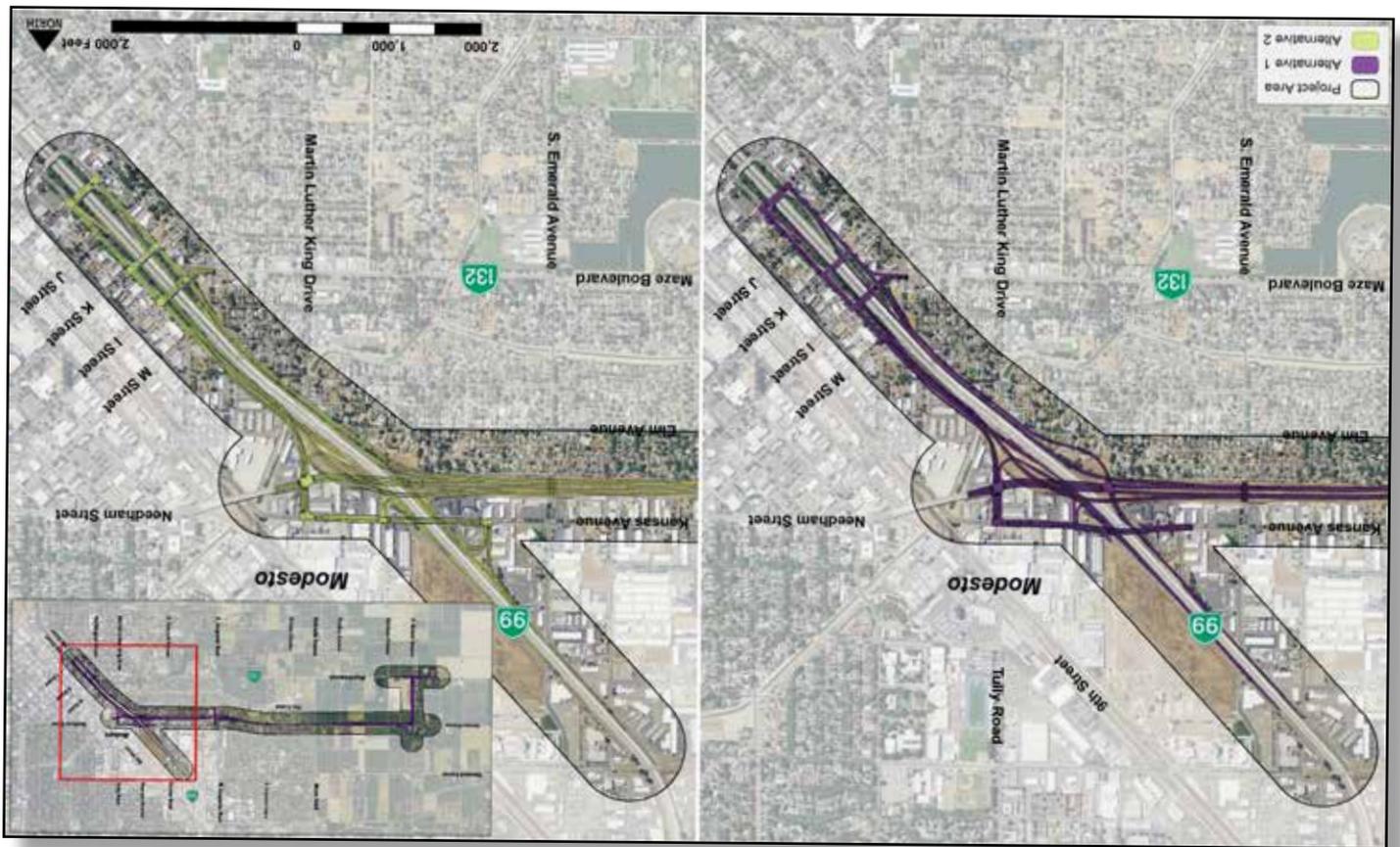
Suggestions?

Call Judith Buethe, Public Information Coordinator, at (209) 464-8707, Ext. 101. Or, send email to hotline@buethecommunications.com.

Visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/environmental/projects/sr132west/>

Spanish translated newsletter available upon request.
Boletín español traducido disponibles bajo petición.





Unique Features of the Build Alternatives

State Route 132 West Freeway/Expressway Project
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