

**TO:** James L. App, City Manager  
**FROM:** Ronald Whisenand, Community Development Director  
**SUBJECT:** Caltrans Highway 46 East Comprehensive Corridor Study  
**DATE:** March 17, 2009

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**Needs:** Consider endorsement of the Comprehensive Corridor Study and direct staff to work with Caltrans and other partner agencies in its implementation

**Facts:**

1. The City of El Paso de Robles has been working with Caltrans, SLOCOG, and San Luis Obispo County in developing a Highway 46 East Comprehensive Corridor Study (CCS).
2. The CCS is a planning tool to evaluate the health and long term strategies for Highway 46E from US 101 to just east of the City limits.
3. It is the intention of the CCS to identify and preserve priority locations for, as well as explore funding strategies to build, system improvements.
4. There are several transportation deficiencies along the corridor. First, due to heavy regional and inter-regional traffic volumes, intersections are experiencing delays, especially Friday afternoon summertime peak periods. Second, the local circulation system is incomplete resulting in a higher use of Highway 46E by local traffic.
5. There are several projects programmed to address deficiencies including dual-left turn lanes at the Highway 46E/101 interchange and additional turn-lanes and signal improvement at the Golden Hill Rd intersection.
6. Improvements that would eliminate delays (multi-lane freeway design with grade separated interchanges at all intersections) are not only financially infeasible, but would negatively impact HWY 101 and the character of Paso Robles as 46 E would physically “divide” the community. The City’s and SLOCOG’s approach to the CCS has been to identify feasible, fundable, and phaseable improvements that might be constructed over the next 20 years. Improvements need to maintain access, enhance the visual quality of the City, and meter traffic flow through the city and onto HWY 101.

**Analysis & Conclusion:** The CCS has been a collaborative process between the City, Caltrans, SLOCOG, and the County. It is the first step in a multi-agency long range vision of the 46E Corridor. The

success of the plan is dependent on the commitment of each agency to secure funding, pursue permitting, and work jointly to make physical improvements to the corridor.

The City's role in implementation of the CCS will be:

- Adopt a corridor and intersection/interchange plan line to preserve right of way
- Update the City Circulation Element to include the 20 year corridor vision as well as identifying improvements to our local street network
- Update the City's AB 1600 Fee program to identify new development's fair share contribution towards corridor improvements
- Diversify modes of travel by updating city plans and improvements to integrate all modes of transportation (transit, car pools, bicycles, and walking)

Funding will be the biggest challenge in implementing the CCS. State, Regional, and Federal funds are limited. In the past, the State has looked to SLOCOG and the City of Paso Robles to meet the financial shortfall. However, the City's main funding strategy has been the collection of impact fees through the AB 1600 Fee program. This program is limited whereby the City can't charge more than development's "fair share" of the improvements. Therefore, any major improvement along the corridor will be underfunded. SLOCOG's dedicated funding has also diminished and must further be spread throughout the County.

The CCS recognizes funding limitations both locally as well as statewide. While other local funding partners can be pursued, such as the County collecting impact fees for development that will utilize improvements within the City, ultimately the 20 year CCS vision will be limited to:

- Improvements to local street network (i.e. parallel route study concepts) to allow citizens to access businesses and services north of Highway 46 without the need to access the highway.
- Construction of a single grade separated interchange at or near Union Road. An interim signal at that location will be pursued as part of the project development process.
- Maintenance of signalized intersections at Buena Vista and Golden Hill Roads.
- Consideration of a pedestrian/bike undercrossing at Buena Vista and 46E.
- Consideration of a pedestrian/vehicular undercrossing between Hunter Ranch and the Vaquero resorts.

The CCS is a Caltrans planning document. Therefore action by partner agencies is limited to an "endorsement." A resolution of endorsement and future partner agency commitments is attached for Council's consideration.

**Policy**

**Reference:** 2003 General Plan Circulation Element and draft Parallel Route Study

**Fiscal**

**Impact:** Adoption of the CCS will trigger an update to the City’s Circulation Element of the General Plan and an update of the City’s AB 1600 Fee Program. New development will be limited to funding their fair share. Other funding strategies, including SLOCOG, County, and Caltrans will need to be pursued.

- Options:**
- a. Endorse the Route 46 East Comprehensive Corridor Study and direct staff to incorporate CCS concepts in future planning efforts including pursuit of a 46E plan line, Circulation Element Update, AB 1600 Fee Program, and work with SLOCOG and Caltrans on the preparation of a Project Study Report (PSR) for corridor improvements and funding for ultimate improvements.
  - b. Amend, modify or reject the foregoing option.

Attached:

- 1. Draft CCS
- 2. Draft Resolution

## Attachment 1

Individual colored copies provided to Council.

Additional copies available for review at the Community Development Department counter at City Hall and in the City Library, 1000 Spring Street.

On line versions can be found on the following web sites:

[www.prcity.com/planning](http://www.prcity.com/planning) under Hot Topics.

<http://www.46eastforthefuture.org/>

CD versions available for the cost of \$15.00

RESOLUTION NO. 09-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
ENDORING THE CALTRANS ROUTE 46 EAST COMPREHENSIVE  
CORRIDOR STUDY DATED MARCH 2009

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WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles has worked with partnership agencies including the County of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), and Caltrans in the development of a Route 46 East Comprehensive Corridor Study (CCS); and

WHEREAS, the CCS is a planning tool to evaluate the health and long term strategies for Highway 46E from US 101 to just east of the City limits; and

WHEREAS, the City's General Plan recognizes the need to coordinate with Caltrans, SLOCOG, and the County to improve access to, from, and along Highway 46E as it travels through Paso Robles; and

WHEREAS, improvements along the corridor are necessary for the long term health of the State highway system and to allow development of the City in a manner authorized by the City's General Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

- SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Paso hereby endorses the Route 46 East Comprehensive Corridor Study and will work with the other three agency partners to pursue implementation of the study.
- SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Paso Robles request that the four agency partners help fund future improvements and facilitate streamlined permitting of State Highway improvements
- SECTION 3. The City Council of the City of Paso Robles directs their staff to consider and incorporate CCS concepts in our future planning efforts, work with Caltrans on the approval of a corridor plan line, and request Caltrans initiation of a Project Study Report for future corridor improvements.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 17<sup>th</sup> day, March 2009 by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

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Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cathy David, Deputy City Clerk