

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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**Staff Report**

**SUBJECT:** Route 246 Transportation Concept Report

**MEETING DATE:** May 20, 2004

**Agenda Item:** 16

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive presentation from Caltrans staff on final draft State Route 246 Transportation Concept Report.

**DISCUSSION:**

Caltrans' Transportation Concept Reports (TCRs) are long-term planning documents. The TCR: 1) evaluates current and projected conditions along the route; 2) establishes a twenty-year planning vision or concept; and 3) recommends long-term improvements to achieve the concept. Caltrans is charged with the additional responsibility of ensuring that the highways provide for safe and reasonable interregional traffic flow, continuity, and efficient goods movement that sustains the State's economy. TCRs form the foundation of System Planning at Caltrans.

The TCR for State Route (SR) 246 places a greater emphasis on intermodal solutions, new technologies and the interrelationships of all transportation services and facilities. Thus, the TCR is a tool that provides a 20-year, multi-modal vision for a state route. Specific land use projects are not discussed within the document unless development is imminent. TCRs are updated every 3-5 years in order to capture changing conditions along the route.

While the TCR is a technical document, it is developed through coordination with local and regional agencies and the public. For the 246 TCR, public meetings were held in Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc and the County (through the Santa Ynez Valley General Plan Advisory Committee) to obtain feedback regarding their vision for the route. The Santa Ynez Band of the Chumash Indians was also consulted. The draft TCR for SR 246 has been reviewed and commented on by SBCAG, the County and all the local jurisdictions along the route. The final draft document is available on the Caltrans web site at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/planning/tcrs/246/index.pdf>

The corridor has been divided into segments to analyze traffic and safety data. Some of the issues and recommendations contained in the final draft include the following:

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
Potential for relinquishment	No changes other than support relinquishment
Flood zone areas/Central Ave. Extension/Access to City Park	Raise roadbed out of flood plain; support SBCAG Study; replace Robinson Bridge.
Current Project Study Report for widening	Complete widening to 4 lanes.
Highway as "Main Street"	Maintain 4 lane arterial; State Highway as "Main Street."
Widening from Buellflats to top of plateau/Solvang pedestrian traffic.	Continue center left-turn lane up grade; State Highway as "Main Street."
Intersection at Alamo Pintado, Santa Ynez Valley High School, Casino, SR 154 junction.	No changes other than current planned improvements at SR 246/154 junction.

District 5 staff will complete this document in June. If you have any additional comments, please send them no later than June 1, 2004 to:

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Any additional changes will be incorporated into the document and it will be posted on the above web site in final form.

The next TCRs to be completed will be SR 154, followed by SR 135. Both of these routes have outdated documents and require revisions.

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