

Linden Avenue/Casitas Pass Road Improvement Project
SB-101-PM 2.17/3.3
EA 4482U0

PURPOSE AND NEED

The project's purpose and need have been developed jointly with the City of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, and Caltrans.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to improve access to and operations at the Linden Avenue and Casitas Pass Road interchanges with Highway 101; improve operations on Highway 101 in the project vicinity; reduce use of Highway 101 for local trips and improve local circulation, including connectivity on Via Real between Bailard Avenue and Linden Avenue; and improve local bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.

Need

The funds programmed by the board of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments are intended to address several transportation problems and deficiencies on US 101 and the local road network in the City of Carpinteria, local interchanges, on- and off-ramps, and a parallel arterial. More specifically:

- ✓ The Linden Avenue overcrossing and Casitas Pass Road overcrossing have nonstandard vertical clearance over US 101, necessitating diversion of taller trucks onto City streets.
- ✓ On-ramps within the project limits have nonstandard spacing and merging lengths resulting in operational difficulties on US 101.
- ✓ There are three discontinuous sections of Via Real, a parallel arterial on the north side of US 101 in the City. This creates difficulties for local traffic on the north side of US 101, including bicycles, pedestrians, and emergency vehicles, requiring out-of-direction travel and/or freeway use to access properties on the north side of US 101.
- ✓ The northbound on-ramp at Casitas Pass Road interchange is combined with two-way traffic on Via Real, which includes traffic from Vallecito Road and Hales Lane. This is a non-standard geometric design for the interchange. Speed differentials between the ramp and the intersections discourage a free flow of traffic through the area.
- ✓ Pedestrian facilities are provided on only one side of both the Linden Avenue overcrossing and the Casitas Pass Road overcrossing. These overcrossings also have insufficient width to provide bicycle lanes. The close proximity of several schools creates higher than average pedestrian and bicycle traffic on these streets.

Guiding Principles

In addition to defining the project's purpose and need, the project partners developed a set of guiding principles, which assist to shape the project development process and guide decisions of the project team.

- ✓ Use local plans as guidance to ensure compliance with City Coastal Development Permit requirements.
- ✓ Developed with consideration for Highway 101 widening projects.
- ✓ Minimize residential right of way impacts.
- ✓ Preserve existing sense of community and environmental resources.
- ✓ Facilitate future transit improvements.