

Caltrans Update

Fresno Council Of Governments



Special points of interest:

- Governor's Proposed Budget leaves Transportation funding whole.
- Hiring Freeze imposed on State Agencies.
- No Bond sales proposed until Fall 2011.
- "From one end of the state to the other, transportation projects are providing jobs and improving mobility for people and businesses in California," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim.
- Congratulations to Fresno Council Of Governments and it's member agencies on successful Cycle 4 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) awards totaling **\$2,552,300** towards road projects.

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"

Update on Fresno County Projects:

Westside Expressway—State Route 180 Route Adoption

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement will be out for public review March 16–May 9, 2011. A public hearing is scheduled for March 30, 2011 from 4:30 - 7:30 at the Kerman Community Center.

For more information contact:

Bob Hull, Project Manager
(559)243-3443.

Route 145 Intersection Improvement Project— State Route 145 and Jensen Avenue

Environmental and preliminary design work continue. Additional air quality studies are underway and additional alternatives are being analyzed.

There will be a presentation to the Kerman City Council on April 20, 2011.

For more information contact:

Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager
(559)243-3432.

State Route 180 Braided Ramps— Fresno

A number of design/ construction firms have teamed up to bid on the first design build project in Fresno County. Anticipate issuing the Request for Proposal in late April 2011.

For more information contact:

Neil Bretz, Project Manager
(559)243-3465

Fresno 41 Ramp Meters

All work should be completed this spring.

Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 1 Four Lane Expressway— State Route 180

In construction, completed westbound lanes and switched

traffic onto new lanes. East-bound lanes will be open to traffic near the completion of the project, which is anticipated in late summer 2011.

For more information contact:

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(559)243-3465

North Fresno Six Lane— State Route 99

Contractor started October 2010 and is continuing work on structures in the median.

For more information contact:

Jim Bane, Project Manager
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Recently Awarded Projects:

Harlan Ave Overlay— State Route 41 from Laguna Ave to Harlan St.

Fresno 99 ADA Ramps—Central Ave OC to McKinley Ave OC.

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Transportation & Infrastructure Listening Session :

Caltrans Interim District 6 Director, Sharri Bender-Ehlert was present when Federal lawmakers visited the valley for a "Transportation & Infrastructure Listening Session" on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Ms. Ehlert had the opportunity to speak to the delegation about many of the challenges Caltrans and local

agency face when delivering Federal Aide projects.

"The Congressmen were really looking for solutions which would help," said Ms. Ehlert. "There was a real sense that was reform was needed and that there was political will to carry it through."

The delegation included Congressman John Mica (Florida, Republican) Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and valley Congressman Jeff Denham.

Caltrans has submitted a number of potential reform measures which would streamline the delivery process.

*For more information on
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Local Assistance Program

Caltrans' Local Assistance Program oversees more than one billion dollars annually available to over 600 cities, counties and regional agencies for the purpose of improving their transportation infrastructure or providing transportation services. This funding comes from various Federal and State programs specifically designed to assist the transportation needs of local agencies. Annually, over 1,200 new projects are authorized through the Local Assistance Program of which approximately 700 are construction projects.

The Local Assistance Program, made up of the Divi-

sion of Local Assistance in Headquarters and 12 District Local Assistance Offices, assist Local and Regional Agencies by ensuring specific program requirements are met, project applications are processed, and projects are delivered in accordance with Federal and State requirements. The overhead associated with providing this support is only \$27 M, or 2% of the capital funds that flow through to the local agencies.

One of the programs that Caltrans' Local Assistance Staff oversees is the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. As you

know the State's DBE goal is 13.5%. We are currently at about 8% in local assistance programs statewide for the 09/10 fiscal year. Caltrans District 6 reported 12.95% for the same period, the highest in the State. That number represented over \$13.8 million in contracts awarded to DBE firms in District 6.

For the current fiscal year, District 6 continues to lead the State with over 12% of spending on Local Assistance projects being awarded to DBE firms.



Director, Cindy McKim

Cindy McKim was appointed as the Director of the California Department of Transportation on May 27, 2010. As Director, Ms. McKim is responsible for the maintenance and operations of more than 50,000 lane miles of roadway in the State Highway System, a budget of more than \$13.8 billion, and providing leadership to more than 22,000 employees.

Prior to this appointment, Ms. McKim served as the Chief Deputy Director where she advised and assisted the Department Director regarding all aspects in the policy and operation of the Department of Transportation. She represented the Department in meetings, hearings, boards, commissions and committees and had responsibility related to the overall operation and management of the Department.

Ms. McKim has been with the Department for more than 30 years, serving in a number of high profile management positions including

the Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Director for Rail, Transportation and Aeronautics; Deputy Director for Policy and Administration; Assistant Director of the Administrative Service Center; Accounting Division Chief; Rail Division Chief; Mass Transportation Division Chief; and Assistant Director for Management and Policy Planning.

As the Chief Financial Officer, Ms. McKim was responsible for the Department's financial management and policy, including oversight of an annual operating budget of nearly \$13.8 billion. She was also responsible for programming State and federal transportation funds.

During her assignments with the Rail and Mass Transportation programs, Ms. McKim oversaw implementation of an expanded intercity rail program in California. She chaired two groups of local representatives and business interests responsible for evaluating the feasibility of rail service along important transportation corridors in the

State. She represented the Department in Congressional hearings on the Department's Rail Program, and in dealings with the Legislature and the California Transportation Commission.

As Division Chief for Accounting and Assistant Director of the Administrative Service Center, Ms. McKim was responsible for implementing business process improvements that streamlined delivery of administrative services. The Transportation Research Board has recognized several innovations developed during Ms. McKim's tenure.

Ms. McKim earned her bachelor's degree from the University of San Francisco. She also holds a Certificate in Public Administration from the California State University, Sacramento.



SHANDON ROADSIDE REST AREA ON HWY. 46 HAS OPENED

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – Caltrans has announced that the new Shandon Roadside Rest Area on State Highway 46 opened on Tuesday, February 8 after being closed for one year for a complete renovation. The popular rest area between the Central Coast and the San Joaquin Valley is used by more than 1.5 million visitors annually. The construction cost (\$3 million) for the project was funded entirely by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

“Projects that improve our Safety Roadside Rest Areas (SRRA) are just as critical to traveler safety as projects that make improvements to the actual highways. We know that rested drivers are

alert drivers and that alert drivers make better decisions. I am pleased that motorists traveling the Highway 46 corridor between the Valley and the Coast will have the opportunity to stop and take valuable breaks at the beautifully upgraded Shandon SRRA, the only SRRA between the Valley and the Coast on either Highway 41 or 46.” said Caltrans District 5 Director, Richard Krumholz.

The original Shandon Rest Area (built in 1979) had become outdated, costly to maintain, and no longer met the needs of the massive numbers of annual users. The contractor for the project, Specialty Construction, Inc. of San Luis Obispo, com-

pletely rebuilt the rest area. The transformation included construction of new, expanded restroom facilities, upgrades to parking, pedestrian safety improvements and repairing or replacing electrical, sewer and water systems.

Amenities now available for the public to enjoy at the site include information kiosks, historic displays, picnic tables, vending machines and trash and recycling containers. The overhaul improved safety for the traveling public and the rest area now meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Shandon Roadside Rest Area
State Route 46

The Shandon Rest Area is an oasis for commuters, tourists, and trucks moving goods between the Central Coast and the San Joaquin Valley. The new, improved rest area will provide the public a safe convenient, attractive and informative stopping place,” said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim.

CALTRANS DISTRICT 6 RECOGNIZES STAFF FOR EXCELLENCE

On March 1 Caltrans District 6 celebrated the successful delivery of over \$80 Million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects.

District 6 Local Assistance staff was challenged to meet the expedited timelines while continuing to provide services as normal on other Federal Aide projects. The District doubled it's workload without receiving any additional resources.

Local Assistance staff received praise from many of our Local partners for their

efforts to help them navigate through the Federal process. Many Locals were new to the Federal Aide process and Local Assistance staff took extra time to help everyone get their projects funded.

“Now the real challenge begins,” said Sharri Bender-Ehlert, Caltrans Interim District 6 Director. “Now we have to make sure that all of the invoices are processed so that our local partners can be reimbursed.



Caltrans staff who participated in delivering over \$80 Million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects in District 6.

Caltrans

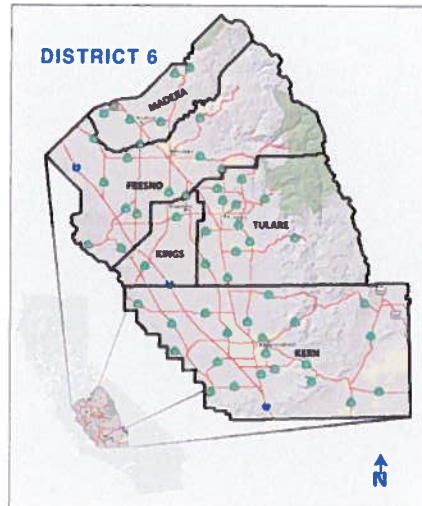
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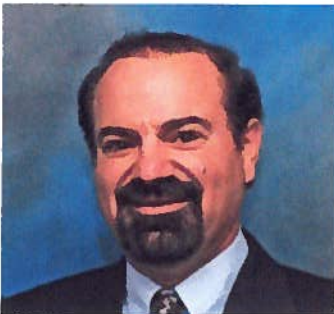
We're here to get you there!

Visit us on the web at
www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 6 is headquartered in Fresno. This geographically diverse district is the second largest of the 12 Districts state-wide, stretching from the southernmost part of Yosemite National Park in the north to the Mojave Desert. It includes Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties. Interstate 5 and State Route 99 run the length of District 6, serving as the main north-south arteries for not just the Central Valley, but for the entire state as well.



Introducing your local Project Managers:



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