



PCTPA I-80/SR-65

Project Update

September 2012

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Progress Report - Improving the I-80/SR-65 Interchange

Project Update

Throughout the year the I-80/SR-65 interchange is used by a large, and increasing, number of people driving along the I-80 and SR-65 corridors. While summer is coming to a close and the number of vacation travelers that added to the daily commute congestion may have tapered, school traffic begins to increase within the corridor. These traffic increases add to the already heavy commuter and other interregional traffic on the interchange.



The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA), in collaboration with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin, and Roseville, and the County of Placer, are looking for ways to improve traffic congestion at the I-80/SR-65 interchange. The I-80/SR-65 Interchange Improvements Project objectives are to reduce congestion and improve operations and safety in the area, while maintaining access to local streets and businesses.

Finding the best solution to fixing this bottleneck is very challenging. With any proposed interchange improvement, there will be corresponding impacts to other areas within the corridor.

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for a map
of the project area

"We can't just look at the interchange problem in isolation," said Celia McAdam, Executive Director with PCTPA. "We need to widen our view to see how any proposed solution will impact the traffic conditions further down the road on I-80 and SR-65, and on the local streets. It requires us to make sure we find ways to balance the positive impacts with the potential for creating further issues down the road."

The project team will also be evaluating proposed solutions with the existing traffic conditions and the future traffic conditions in the project area.



In 2009, Caltrans completed a Project Study Report (PSR), which identified a number of proposed I-80/SR-65 interchange improvement concepts to improve traffic congestion in the corridor. In 2011, PCTPA contracted

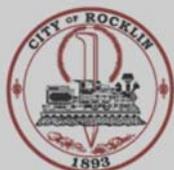
with the CH2M HILL team to complete the next required project delivery phase used for state highway projects called the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase.

"The Caltrans study gave us a good foundation for our next phase," said McAdam. "We've taken more than 20 concepts and through a rigorous screening process and input from stakeholder meetings and two public workshops, we've narrowed the solution down to six proposed concepts."

Since the last project update in December 2011, the project team collected traffic counts in January/February 2012 while schools were in session and developed traffic forecasts in the project area for the year 2040. The project team has been busy evaluating each of the six concepts to determine how they work with current and future traffic conditions. This will help the team narrow down which of the six concepts provide the best, most cost-effective improvements to traffic. This analysis is scheduled to be completed by October. These findings will then be presented to the public in a workshop anticipated to occur in January 2013.

Click [here](#) to view the proposed concepts.

Project Partners



Possible interim solutions?

"The I-80/SR 65 Interchange Improvements Project will be designed and built over several phases and, depending on funding availability, may take 20 years or more to complete," said McAdam. "That's why we are also looking at how we can create some traffic relief in the meantime."

At the PCTPA Board meeting in January of this year, the Board directed the project team to investigate the possibility of restriping northbound SR-65 between the I-80 and Galleria Blvd Interchange to add an auxiliary lane as an interim measure. This modification to SR-65 would provide three narrower lanes using the existing roadway and potentially alleviate the congestion drivers experience as they attempt to travel north from I-80.

The project team is also considering the potential benefits of restriping westbound I-80 between Douglas Boulevard and Riverside Avenue to add a narrower auxiliary lane. Both of these concepts are being reviewed and evaluated to determine if either measure would be effective in improving current traffic conditions without negatively impacting driver safety.

Next Steps

- Release of Environmental Notice of Preparation - January 2013
- Public Workshop - January 2013

For more information

For more information regarding this project, or to sign up to receive project updates, please visit the website at <http://8065interchange.org/>

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