

Chapter 4 Comments and Coordination

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for the Yolo 80 Corridor Improvements Project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and correspondence with other interested parties. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

4.1 Public Scoping and Participation

An NOP memorandum was filed with the State Clearinghouse on June 6, 2021, which was revised on August 17, 2021, to notify that the scoping meeting was rescheduled. Caltrans accepted scoping comments until September 24, 2021. A revised NOP was also distributed on October 17, 2022, that included clarification of the proposed managed lane strategies and Build Alternatives. A copy of the NOP is included in Appendix G.

Scoping was noticed through newspaper advertisements that ran in the *Davis Enterprise* on August 18, 2021, and the *Sacramento Bee* on August 23, 2021, and via Facebook, Twitter, and Caltrans' project website. In addition, Caltrans notified members of the community and media through email.

Two public scoping meetings were held virtually through WebEx on August 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the scope of the EIR/EA and the potential effects of the project. Each meeting included a brief presentation on the project and the environmental review process. Attendees were encouraged to submit comments during the meeting or to Caltrans staff via mail or email.

Comments from the public that were submitted during the meeting included questions regarding proposed bicycle facilities, project funding, projects in the nearby area, project timing, proposed lane configuration, proposed sound wall locations, and proposed work within the Yolo causeway. In addition, written comment letters included requests to consider potential air quality effects to sensitive receptors, increased flood risks, potential fish passage impacts, Native American Tribal consultation, utility relocation, etc.

Additional public outreach will take place during the circulation period of the Draft EIR/EA.

4.1.1 Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to the public scoping, Caltrans established a steering committee for the project that included local stakeholders, such as the Cities of Davis and West Sacramento, Yolo County,

SACOG, Yolo County Transportation District, UC Davis, Bicycle Coalition, etc. The steering committee held several public meetings within the Cities of Davis, Sacramento, and West Sacramento to discuss the project and receive input from the community. The meetings occurred as follows:

- June 6, 2018, Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street, Davis, CA 95616, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
- June 14, 2018, West Sacramento City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
- June 21, 2018, Sacramento City Hall, 915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
- November 21, 2019, Mary L. Stephens Davis Library Blanchard Room, 315 East 14th Street, Davis, CA 95616, 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
- February 27, 2020, West Sacramento City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691, 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
- August 25, 2021, Virtual (via WebEx), 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of these meetings was to discuss potential project activities and answer questions. Comments received from the public included bicycle improvements, potential toll lane pricing, sound wall locations, design alternatives, construction impacts to bat species, and other questions regarding project design elements.

4.1.2 Project Development Team Meetings

Project Development Team (PDT) meetings provided the forum for coordination, issue resolution, and information feedback between Caltrans, Sacramento Council of Governments, West Sacramento, Davis, Yolo County, UC Davis, and Yolo County Transportation District.

PDT meetings have occurred monthly since October 3, 2017, and will continue to occur throughout the remainder of the environmental and project approval process. The PDT represents various fields of expertise including design, environmental review, traffic operations, right-of-way, and project management. Accordingly, the PDT convenes to review the project status, address issues as they arise, and provide overall direction throughout the project development process.

4.2 Consultation and Coordination with Public Agencies

4.2.1 Federal Agencies

On January 28, 2021, a list of federal listed anadromous fish species with the potential to occur in the Sacramento West, Davis, Merritt, and Dixon, California USGS 7.5- minute topographic quadrangles was obtained from the NMFS. On October 19, 2022, a list of federally listed species with the potential to occur in the BSA was obtained from the Sacramento USFWS

Office. A Biological Assessment (BA) is being prepared and will be submitted to USFWS for Section 7 consultation under the ESA.

On July 27, 2021, Adam Stewart, a biologist with the USFWS Sacramento Office met with Caltrans staff to conduct a site visit and review of key habitat areas in the Project footprint, and to discuss potential effects and avoidance measures for each species.

4.2.2 State Agencies

Caltrans is currently coordination with CDFW to explore the options for obtaining a consistency determination (CD) for the Project. If a CD is deemed inappropriate for this Project, Caltrans would proceed in obtaining an ITP for GGS as further discussed in Section 2.3.

As further described in Section 2.1, Caltrans evaluated the built environment resources and determined that they were not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP/CRHR. On September 30, 2021, Caltrans received concurrence from SHPO that the seven built environment resources were ineligible.

4.2.3 Native American Tribal Consultation

As further described in Section 2.1.7, Cultural Resources, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted May 14, 2020, to request a search of the Sacred Land Files and request a list of Native American tribes or individuals with potential interests, concerns, and/or knowledge regarding cultural resources or traditional cultural properties that may be affected by the project. Of the 11 tribes originally identified by the NAHC, all responded and requested to continue consultation except for the lone Band of Miwok Indians, the Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe, the Ts'i Akim Maidu, and the Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians.

Formal consultation began on June 4th, 2020, and was followed up by phone calls and/or emails to the Native American contacts who were identified as having an interest in projects within this area by the NAHC:

- Rhonda Morningstar Pope, Chairperson, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
- Clyde Prout, Chairman, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe
- Sara Dutschke Setchwaelo, Chairperson, Lone Band of Miwok Indians
- Cosme Valdez, Chairperson, Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
- Regina Cuellar, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- Grayson Coney, Cultural Director, Ts'i Akim Maidu
- Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
- Raymond Hitchcock, Chairperson, Wilton Rancheria
- Anthony Roberts, Chairperson, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Charlie Wright, chairperson, Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians
- Marlene Sanchez, Chairperson, Guidiville Indian Rancheria

The Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe noted that they would like to defer to a tribe more familiar with the project area. Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians reviewed the project and did not request additional consultation but requested to be notified if any cultural resources are documented. Guidiville Indian Rancheria had no concerns and requested copies of the reports to add to their records.

Shingle Springs noted areas of concern and asked for continued consultation. United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) notes areas of concern and requested to monitor testing. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation noted areas of concern and requested to monitor testing. Wilton Rancheria also noted areas of concern and a desire to continue consultation. A joint meeting was held with concerned tribes; and project details and areas of concern were discussed. Consultation continued in the form of emails, phone calls, and online meetings with all concerned parties as the project developed.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation provided a monitor for the XPI trenching, and UAIC monitored the geotechnical work at Bryte Bend bridge. Following the negative results from surveys and subsurface testing, no additional concerns were raised about the potential to affect tribal cultural resources within the project limits.

4.2.4. Consultation with Stakeholders for Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation

According to the Caltrans VMT Program Bulletin 21-01: VMT Mitigation Funding Status & Additionality (2021), Caltrans strategy seeks to minimize any induces traffic that would generate VMT, which would reduce or eliminate the need for mitigation. However, when SHS project do generate VMT, mitigation strategies must be employed per CEQA. According to Bulletin 21-01, projects or programs must be able to demonstrate a negative effect on VMT and be relatively likely to come to fruition to qualify as feasible mitigation. A summary of VMT mitigation correspondences, meetings, and other notable discussions with stakeholders to date is provided as Table 4.2-1.

Table 4.2-1. Yolo 80 Managed Lanes VMT Mitigation Correspondences, Meetings, Good Faith Efforts

| Date | Type | People/Agencies | Discussion Topics |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/20/2023 | PDT - Project Wide Discussion | Caltrans Staff, YCTD, Stantec (Env consultant), City of West Sac, Yolo County, Wood Rodgers, City of Davis, UC Davis, SACOG | Project overview, VMT Mitigation Plan, DED Schedule. |
| 12/28/2023 | Environmental Status | Caltrans Staff (P.M., Environmental) | Environmental schedule, risks, target dates. |
| 1/5/2023 | Consultant Task Order Review | Caltrans Staff (PM, Traffic Ops), Fehr & Peers | VMT Mitigation Plan, mitigation measures, schedule for F&P to complete updated Mitigation Memo. |

| Date | Type | People/Agencies | Discussion Topics |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/9/2023 | Discussion of HQ Sustainability Mitigation Memo Response | Caltrans Staff (PM, Environmental, Traffic Ops), Fehr & Peers, DKS Associates | Page-by-page overview of HQ Sustainability's Dec 28th response/comments of Draft Mitigation Memo submitted on Dec 16th. |
| 1/10/2023 | PDT - Project Wide Discussion | Caltrans Staff | Project overview, VMT Mitigation Plan. |
| 1/10/2023 | Monthly Managed Lanes Status Update for Executives | Caltrans Executive Staff | Project overview, VMT Mitigation Plan, DED Schedule. |
| 1/12/2023 | VMT Mitigation Plan Discussion | Caltrans Executive Level Staff (PM, Traffic Ops, Planning Forecasting) | Discuss Mitigation Plan and how to move forward, and what direction to provide to consultants (F&P). Outcome was list of 12 transit-related projects for F&P to analyze for VMT reduction, based on highest percentage available of VMT reducing projects and past precedent from D6 Managed Lanes project using transit-oriented projects over a 20-year period for their mitigation plan. |
| 1/12/2023 | Managed Lane Brainstorm prior to Consultant Meeting | Caltrans Staff (PM, Traffic Ops, Environmental, Planning Forecasting) | Discuss Mitigation Plan and how to move forward, and what direction to provide to consultants (F&P). Outcome was list of 12 transit-related projects for F&P to analyze for VMT reduction, based on highest percentage available of VMT reducing projects and past precedent from D6 Managed Lanes project using transit-oriented projects over a 20-year period for their mitigation plan. |
| 1/12/2023 | Consultant Task Order Review | Caltrans Staff (PM, Traffic Ops), Fehr & Peers | Provide F&P with mitigation strategy and direction on 12 projects to analyze for VMT reduction and give schedule of return of Draft Mitigation Memo by 2/16/23. |
| 1/18/2023 | VMT Mitigation Plan Discussion with HQ Sustainability | Caltrans Staff (PM, Traffic Ops, Environmental, HQ Sustainability), Fehr & Peers | Discuss and seek guidance on HQ Sustainability's comments from Dec 28th response letter, provide our updates for the mitigation plan, and discuss feasibility of mitigation measures being presented. |
| 1/24/2023 | Yolo 80 Managed Lanes Update with partner agency, YCTD (Brian Abbanat) | Caltrans (PM) & YCTD | Provide update to partner agency, YCTD, on project schedule, risks, and deficiencies with public outreach. |
| 1/25/2023 | March California Transportation Commission Meeting Reception | Caltrans Staff (PM) & CTC Commissioners/Staff | Discuss Managed Lanes projects with CTC Staff and specifically Yolo 80 project with Commissioner Joe Lyou for input, opinion, and feedback. |

| Date | Type | People/Agencies | Discussion Topics |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/30/2023 | Housing for VMT Mitigation | Caltrans Staff (PM, Environmental) and Affordable Housing Consultant (Brian Bulaga from Thurmond Consulting) | Obtain information on affordable housing opportunities within Sac and Yolo Counties, based on Brian's City of Woodland affordable housing project using Housing and Community Development Homekey grant funds. Discussed Sac-5 and Yol-80 Managed Lanes projects and VMT mitigation requirements, and desire to obtain more information for potentially adding low-income infill housing as a VMT mitigation measure. |
| 1/30/2023 | DED/DPR Schedule Focus Meeting | Caltrans Staff (P.M., Environmental, Design, Traffic Ops, Planning Forecasting) | Team discussion to update the DED/DPR schedule and reconcile different alternative descriptions. |
| 2/2/2023 | Consultant Task Order Review | Caltrans Staff (P.M., Traffic Ops), Fehr & Peers | Review VMT Mitigation plan and memo status. Still on track for 2/16/23 delivery by F&P. |
| 2/6/2023 | DED Schedule Meeting | Caltrans Staff (P.M. and Environmental) | Status update on Environmental delivery for DED and schedule impacts with VMT memo on mitigation measures anticipated for 2/16/23. |
| 2/9/2023 | DED Status Update | Caltrans Staff (P.M., Environmental, Traffic Ops), Stantec, Fehr & Peers | Discuss Stantec's status on DED and outstanding issues/needs for them to complete studies. Also discussed DED schedule and need to push Admin DED circulation back from 2/13/23 to 4/14/23. |
| 2/13/2023 | PDT - Project Wide Discussion | Caltrans Staff | Project overview, VMT Mitigation Plan. |
| 2/14/2023 | Housing for VMT Mitigation | Caltrans Staff (P.M., Environmental) and Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) | Obtain information on HCD grant funding and partnering opportunities for Caltrans to help implement affordable housing with Sac-5 and Yol-80 region as a VMT mitigation measure. |
| 2/14/2023 | Monthly Managed Lanes Status Update for Executives | Caltrans Executive Staff | Project overview, VMT Mitigation Plan, DED Schedule. |
| 3/1/2023 | Mitigation Plan Discussion | Caltrans Staff (P.M. and Environmental) | Updated Fehr & Peers Mitigation Memo with VMT reduction numbers provided for the mitigation measures identified. And also, how the mitigation plan fits into the DED schedule. |
| 3/6/2023 | City of Davis, YoloTD, Caltrans Partnering | City of Davis, YoloTD, Caltrans Staff (P.M. and Environmental) | Partnering opportunities from a financial contribution perspective for the 3 City of Davis mitigation measures identified in our plan. Also discussed timeline for needing the partnership to be documented in our DED/FED, and mechanism for solidifying partnership (i.e., MOU to start but actionable plan with City Council recommendation and approval). |

| Date | Type | People/Agencies | Discussion Topics |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3/6/2023 | Mitigation Plan Discussion | YoloTD, Caltrans Staff (P.M. and Environmental) | Analyzed each mitigation measure and effectiveness, feasibility, reasonableness for the plan. |
| 3/7/2023 | VMT Mitigation Discussion with D4 | Caltrans Staff (P.M., Planning, D4 Planning) | D4's situations and discussions for their managed lanes projects and VMT mitigation measures, and how they juxtapose with D3's proposed mitigation plans (for I-5 and Yol-80). |
| 3/8/2023 | Caltrans, Housing and Community Development (HCD), DGS Partnering | HCD, DGS, Caltrans Staff (District P.M., HQ Sustainability, HQ 743 Team) | Partnering opportunities from a financial contribution perspective for housing projects that HCD and DGS provide funding programs for. Also discussed timeline for needing the partnership to be documented in our DED/FED, and mechanism for solidifying partnership (i.e., MOU to start but actionable plan with financial contributions obligated by certain dates). |
| 3/9/2023 | Mitigation Plan Discussion | Fehr & Peers, YoloTD, Caltrans Staff (P.M., Environmental, Traffic Ops) | Analyzed each mitigation measure and effectiveness, feasibility, reasonableness for the plan, including the additional measures identified by YoloTD. |
| 3/10/2023 | SacRT, YoloTD, Caltrans Partnering | SacRT, YoloTD, Caltrans Staff (P.M. and Environmental) | Partnering opportunities from a financial contribution perspective for the Causeway Connection expansion program mitigation measure identified in our plan. Also discussed timeline for needing the partnership to be documented in our DED/FED, and mechanism for solidifying partnership (i.e., MOU to start but actionable plan with City Council recommendation and approval). |
| 3/13/2023 | City of West Sac, YoloTD, Caltrans Partnering | City of West Sac and YoloTD (Caltrans Staff unavailable) | |

4.2.4 Stakeholder-Specific Actions – Equitable Outreach

Caltrans is committed to meaningfully engage communities most impacted by structural racism in the creation and implementation of the programs and projects that impact their daily lives by creating more transparent, inclusive, and ongoing consultation and collaboration processes. Equity will achieve this through an engagement process where everyone is treated with dignity and justice. Based on public input, Caltrans will consider changes to the project to avoid harm to frontline and vulnerable communities if issues are identified during scoping and outreach. Caltrans prioritizes projects that improve access for and provide meaningful benefits to underserved communities.

Accordingly, Caltrans proposes to take the following actions to increase public interest and participation in the outreach process, particularly to seek input on the equity of the managed lanes systems alternatives presented in this document.

1. Caltrans will use public service announcements and publication notifications of DED availability by posting alerts on social media (i.e., Instagram and Facebook), as well as by using regional news outlets such as local news television, radio stations, and newspapers to target communities of color and underserved communities most likely to be affected by changes to I-80 and Hwy 50 in the project area.
2. The month prior to any DED-related public meetings, a Caltrans representative will attend at the city council and county board of supervisor's meetings held in every incorporated city and county in identified in the jurisdictions affected by the project to encourage public involvement in the public scoping process for the proposed project. Caltrans anticipates using the public comment period (~3 minutes) at each meeting to provide the public with a brief project description and to solicit public participation by directing the public to the project's website link and by accepting written comments in real time. The meetings in which Caltrans will participate will be made available via the Caltrans project website and by social media posts (i.e., Instagram and Facebook) the month prior to the meeting.
3. Caltrans will post a video of our key presentation from the public meeting(s) on the comment sheet website.
4. During the public scoping period, Caltrans will conduct additional public meetings in communities of color and underserved communities if no such city or county meetings are practicable for the members of these communities to attend.
5. Caltrans will prepare a Health Risk Assessment focusing on the proposed project's air quality effects on communities of color and underserved communities identified in the project study area. This assessment will supplement the CIA findings specific to air quality. Findings presented in the revised CIA will be incorporated into the FED, as appropriate, based on public comments.
6. Caltrans will send an invitation to participate in a Willingness to Pay or Ride Share Survey that can be referenced in other nearby projects DEDs—Yolo Pavement Rehabilitation Project (T-1), Sac 50 Design-Build Project (T-4), City of Davis Richards Boulevard Ramps Reconfiguration Project (T-5), the I-5 Auxiliary Lanes Project, and I-5 Managed Lanes Project. This would be sent to the SACOG region via Instagram, Facebook and Local News, using Survey Monkey to gather the responses compiled by Admin, and then each FED can incorporate responses as needed.