



SR-39 Reopening Project Draft EIR/EA

PM R40.0 / R44.4 EA 07-34770

April 2024



District 7 (Los Angeles and Ventura Counties)

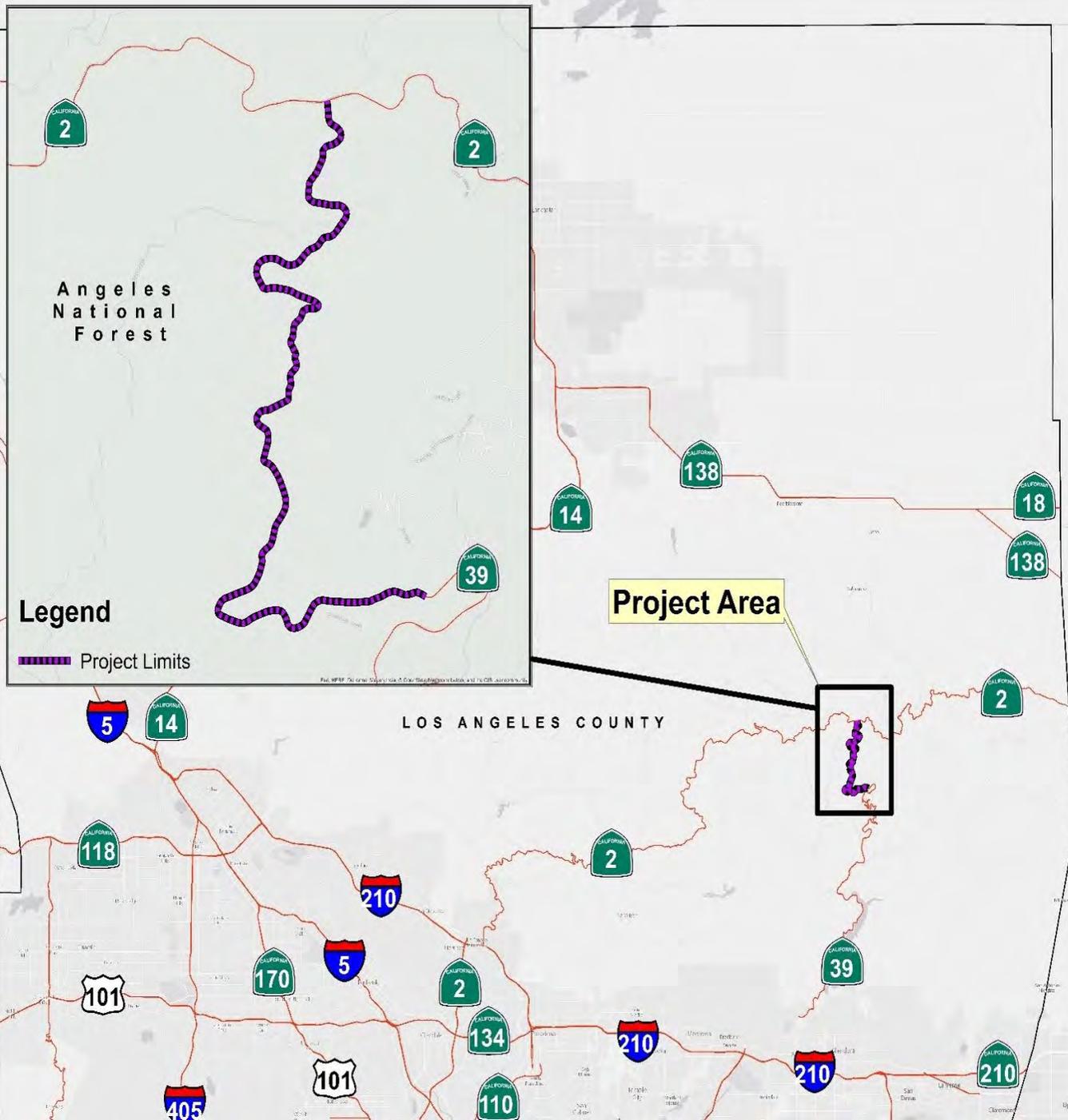
Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Provide a brief summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (Draft EIR/EA)
- Describe the decision process to identify the Preferred Alternative (PA)
- Provide a summary of next steps
- Listen to public comments
 - Incorporated into the public record
 - Responses in the Final Environmental Document

SR-39 PROJECT AREA

State Route 39
(San Gabriel Canyon Road)

State Route 2
(Angeles Crest Highway)



SR-39 BACKGROUND

- Completed in 1961
- Closed Since 1978
- Maintenance for emergency access



PRIOR EFFORTS TO REOPEN CLOSED SECTION

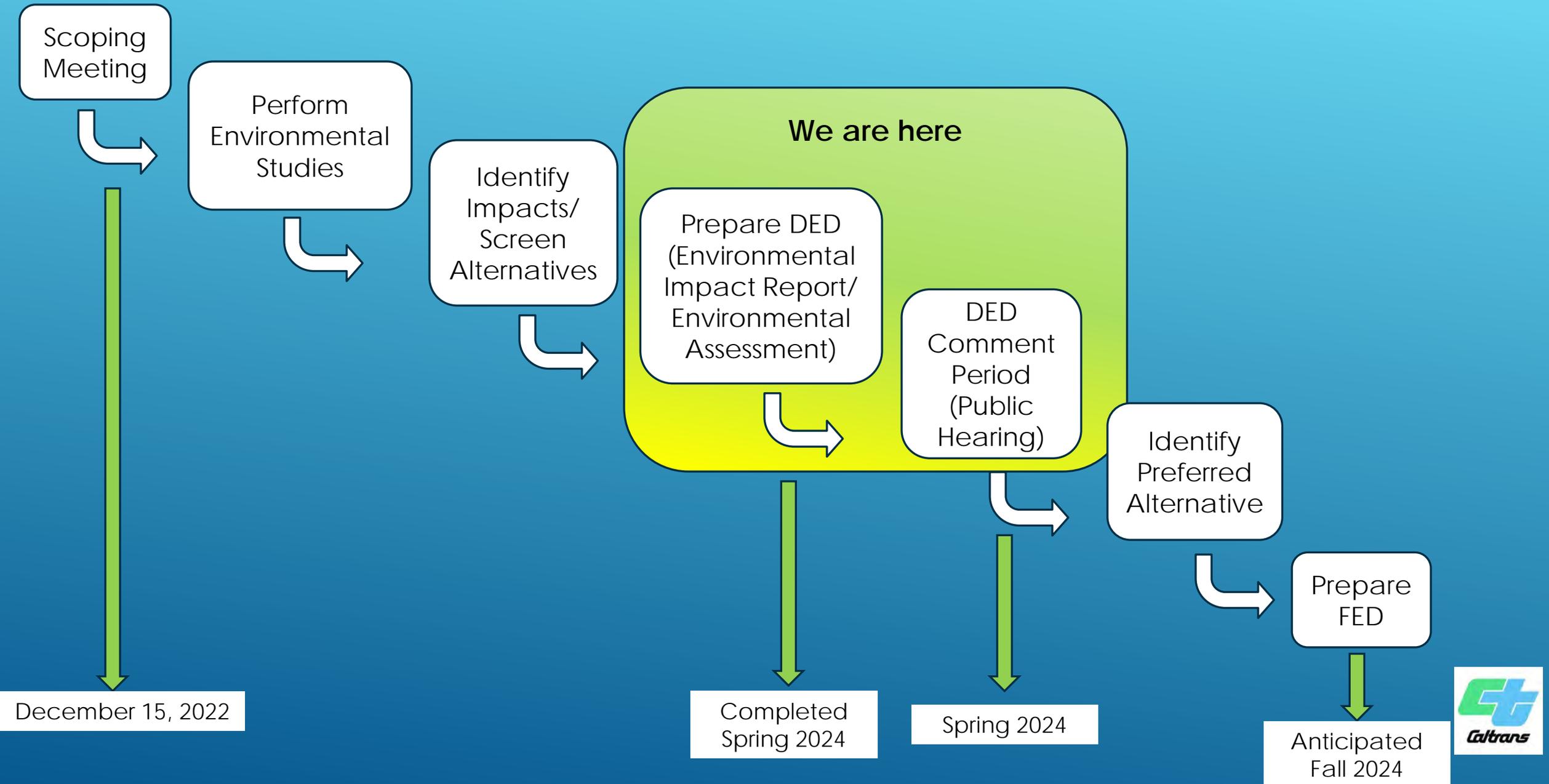
- Environmental Document completed 2009
- Project terminated due to environmental concerns, geologic instability, and funding constraints



PROJECT SCHEDULE



ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS



EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Project Purpose:

- Restore access between Interstate-210 and State Route-2.
- Enhance access for fire suppression forces, search and rescue, and emergency response personnel.
- Improve multi-modal access in accordance with Caltrans' Complete Streets policy
- Reduce vehicle congestion, address parking capacity issues, and improve public safety.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Project Need:

- The current conditions continue to degrade and pose a safety hazard to maintenance crews and other users of the roadway.
- Provide an alternate, more direct route for motorists driving between the San Gabriel Valley and Wrightwood or communities in the High Desert.
- Compliance with the California Streets and Highway Code, Sections 91 and 100, by
 - Maintaining the state highway
 - Identifying and closing gaps in the State Highway System, and
 - Identifying and addressing safety and long-term maintenance issues
- Assist in satisfying goals and policies as outlined in the Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan.
- Provide enhanced access for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and other emergency personnel in search and rescue activities and a reduction in response times.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alt 1: No-Build

Alt 2: Evacuation Route (Minimal Build)

Alt 3: Active Transportation Access (Shuttle and
Bicycle Path Facilities)

Alt 4: Full Opening

~~Alt. 5: Viaduct Construction~~

~~Alt. 6: Single Travel Lane~~

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alt 1: No Build

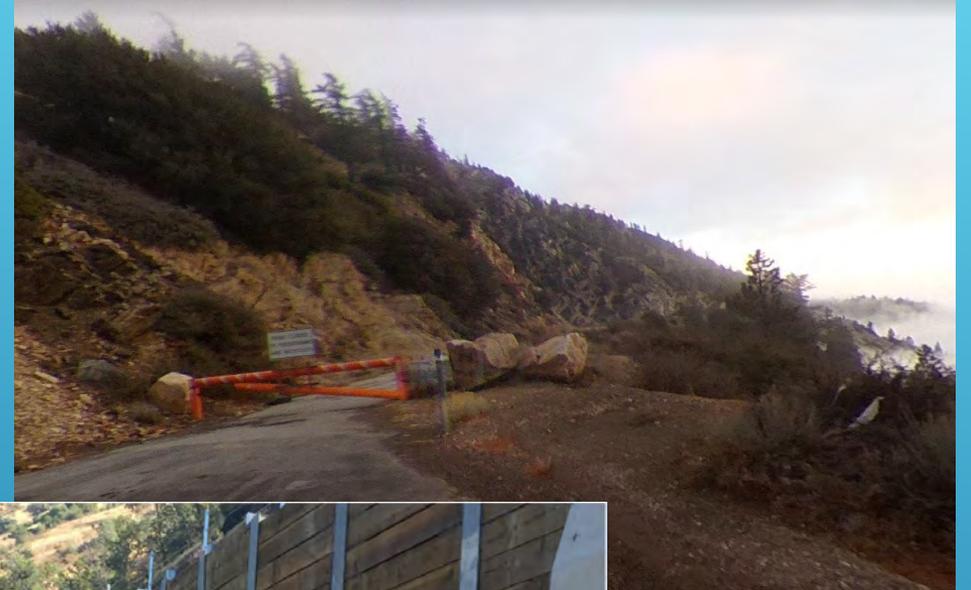


- No Improvements
- Continued maintenance for emergency response

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

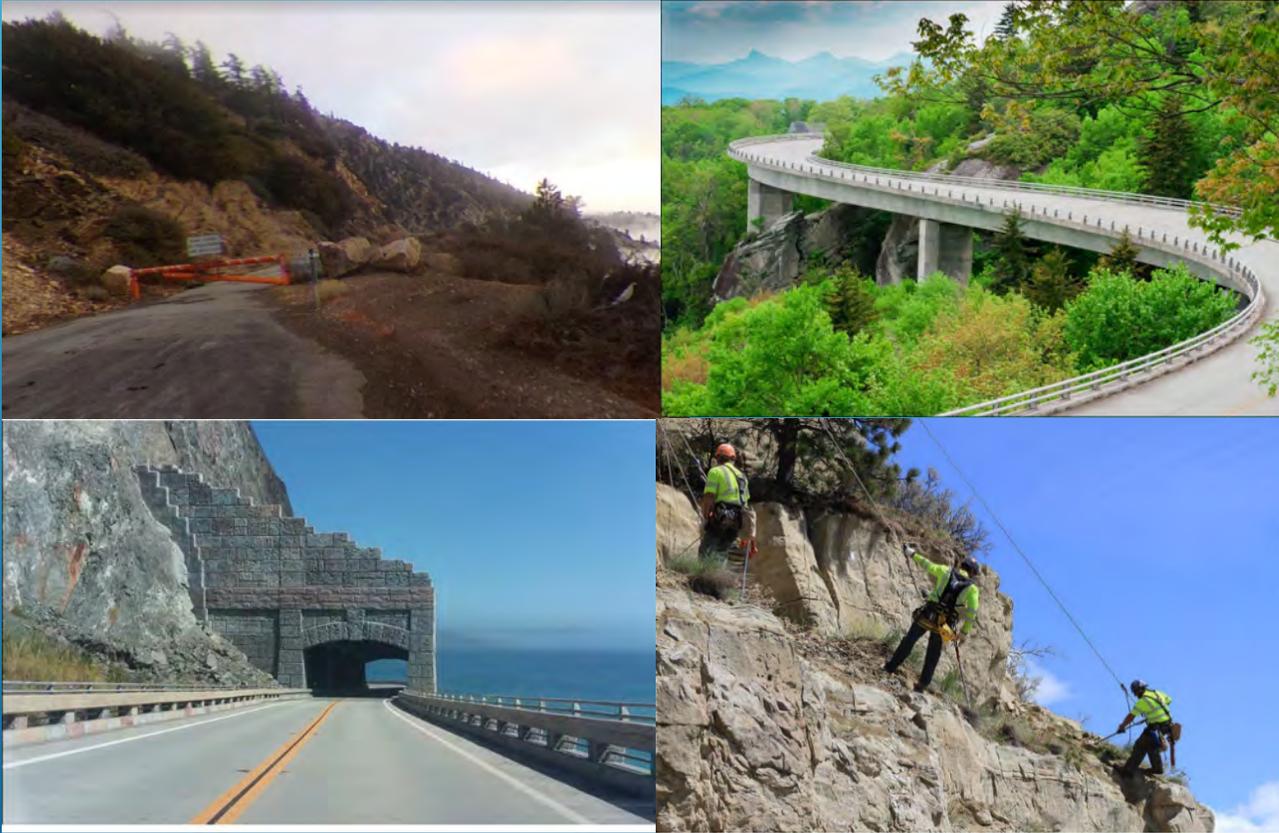
Alt 2: Evacuation Route

- Access for emergency and maintenance vehicles only (improve current emergency access)
- Roadway reconstruction and striping of new pavement
- Drainage restoration
- Repair soldier pile and masonry retaining walls
- Guardrail upgrades



PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

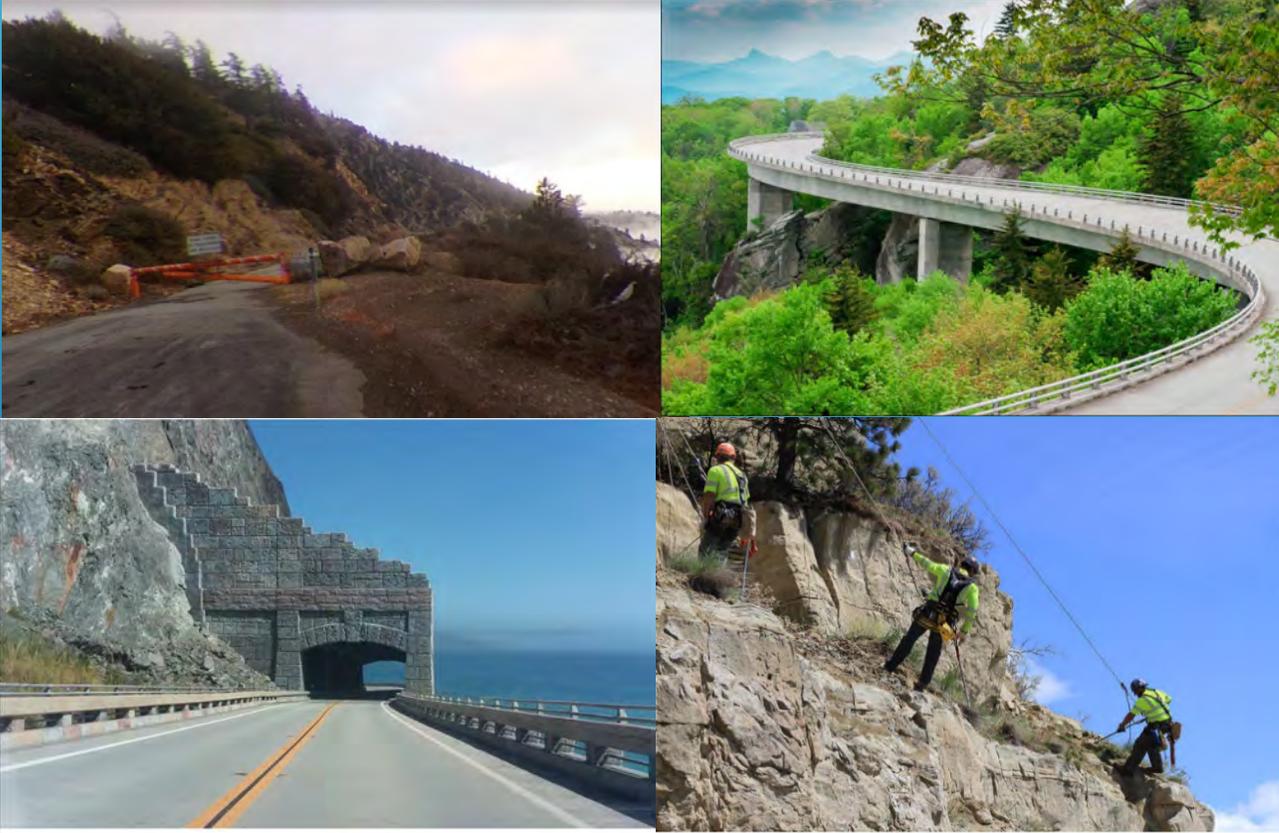
Alt 3: Active Transportation Access (Shuttle & Bicycle Path Facilities)



- Access for pedestrians, bicyclists
- Shuttle vehicles at low speeds
- 2 Parking lots for visitors
- Roadway reconstruction (drainage restoration, retaining walls, guardrail upgrades)
- 3 major viaduct structures
- 1 rock shed
- 5 soldier pile retaining walls
- 10 rock scaling locations

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alt 4: Full Opening



- Full Public Access for unrestricted travel
- Roadway reconstruction (drainage restoration, retaining walls, guardrail upgrades)
- Slight widening of the pavement for 2 12-foot wide lanes and 4-foot wide shoulder
- 5 major viaducts
- 1 rock shed (100 feet longer)
- 5 soldier pile retaining walls
- 10 rock scaling locations

COMMON DESIGN FEATURES OF ALTERNATIVES 2-4

- Roadway Rehabilitation
- Roadway Delineation
- Clearing Away Roadway Debris and Rocks
- Drainage System Restoration
- New Retaining Walls

LIST OF ISSUES ANALYZED IN DRAFT EIR/EA

- **Biological Resources**
- Cultural Resources
- Noise/Vibration
- **Visual/Aesthetics**
- Geology/Soils
- Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases
- Climate Change
- Hydrology/Floodplain
- Land Use
- Utilities/Emergency Services
- **Traffic/Transportation**
- Hazardous Waste
- Water Quality/Storm Water Runoff
- Energy
- Wildfire
- Community Impacts
- **Recreation**
- Construction Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
- Environmental Justice
- **Section 4(f)**

DRAFT EIR/EA KEY RESOURCE ISSUES

- Emergency Services
- Traffic/Transportation
- Recreation and Section 4(f) Resources
- Biological Resources
- Visual/Aesthetics

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Alts. 2 and 3
 - Would improve the road but gates would remain closed, slowing access
- Alt. 4
 - Would improve the road and provide unrestricted access to emergency personnel

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE FACILITIES

➤ Alt. 2

- Public access would be restricted; No change

➤ Alt. 3

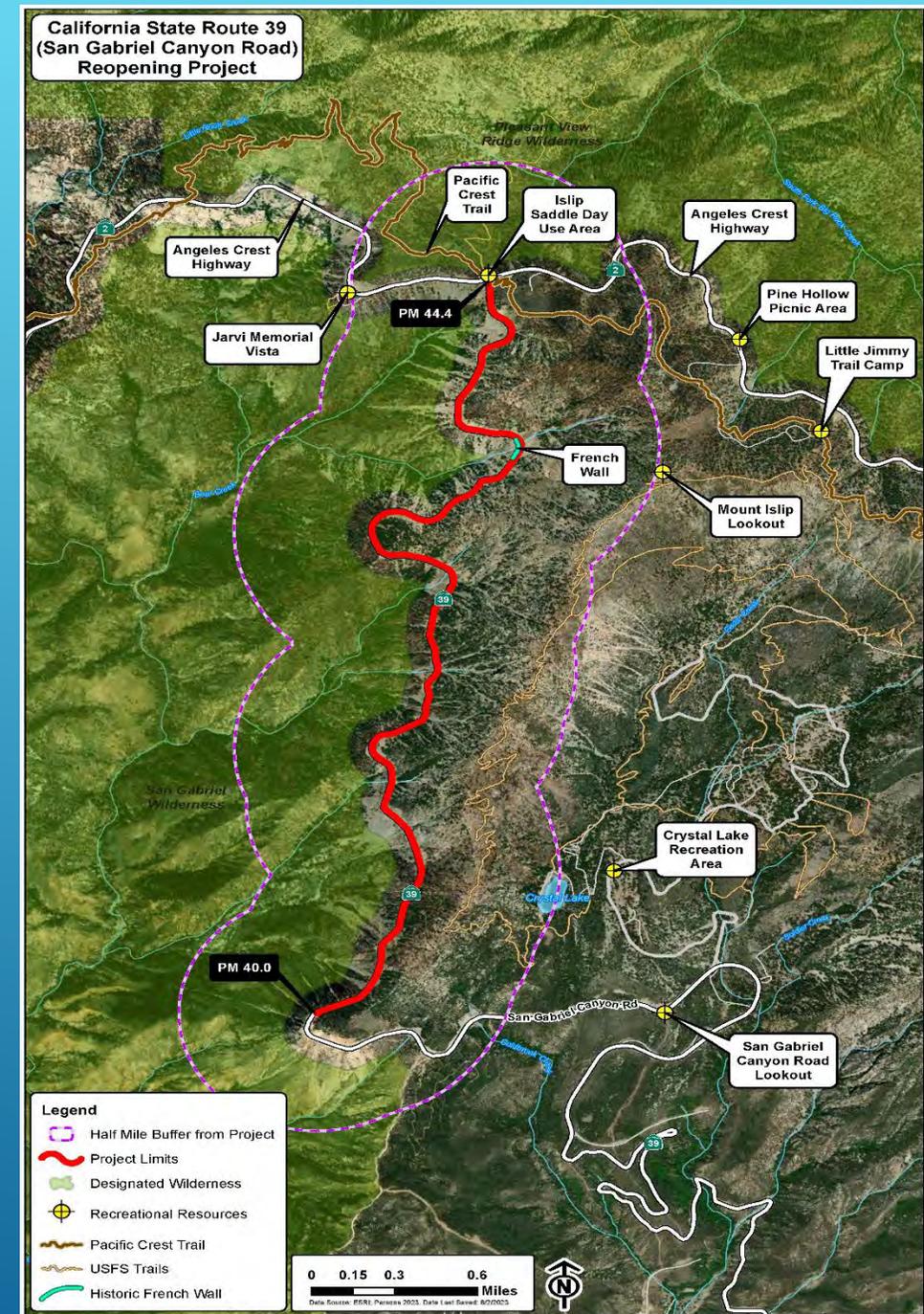
- Would improve access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation

➤ Alt. 4

- Would improve access for pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, and all vehicle types

Recreation and Section 4(f)

- Islip Saddle Day Use Area
 - De Minimus (minor) Impacts (Alts. 3 and 4)
- Crystal Lake at Crystal Lake Recreation Area
 - No Impact
- Portions of Mount Islip and Big Cienega Trails at Crystal Lake Recreation Area
 - No Impact
- Jarvi Memorial Vista
 - No Impact
- French Wall
 - No Impact
-
- Pacific Crest Trail
 - No direct impacts; temp. hiking detour during construction (Alts. 3 and 4)



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Wildlife Movement
- Sensitive plant species
- Wetlands/Waters
- T and E species
- Invasive Species
- Natural communities
- Sensitive animal species

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- No impacts to known wildlife movement corridors
- No sensitive plant species were observed during surveys
- Minimal impacts to Wetland and Other Waters
 - 10 drainages (most are ephemeral)
 - Total impacts
 - USACE jurisdiction: 0.170 acres – 0.205 acres
 - CDFW jurisdiction: 0.340 acres to 0.410 acres
- No impacts to Threatened and Endangered species
- No impacts from Invasive Species

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

➤ Natural Communities

Plant Community	Alternative 2		Alternative 3		Alternative 4	
	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)
Mixed Coniferous Forest	1.0	1.5	1.6	2.3	1.9	2.6
Canyon Live Oak Woodland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Xeric and Mesic Cliff Faces	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.0
Riparian Herb and Scrub	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mixed Montane Chaparral	1.5	3.0	2.4	3.4	2.6	3.7
TOTALS	2.9	4.5	4.6	5.7	5.4	6.3

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Nelson's Bighorn Sheep
 - USFS: sensitive species
 - CDFW: formerly a fully protected species



VISUAL/AESTHETICS

- Alt. 2 – Minimal impact/little change to existing features
- Alt. 3 – Moderate impact from addition of 3 viaducts and rock shed
- Alt. 4 – Moderate impact from addition of roundabout, 5 viaducts, wildlife exclusionary fencing, and rock shed

EXAMPLES OF STRUCTURES (ALTS. 3 AND 4)

Example of roundabout in Lake Tahoe. Features include landscaping and colored concrete.



Rock Shed example in California on the Big Sur coast.



Viaduct example on I-70 in Colorado. Colored concrete matches local rock. Vegetation around viaduct columns visually integrates structure.

NEXT STEPS

- **Draft EIR/EA** available for public review at local libraries and: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-7/district-7-programs/d7-environmental-docs>
- **Meeting Recording** – Caltrans YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@CaltransD7/featured>
- **Meeting Presentation** <https://dot.ca.gov/DOT/caltrans-near-me/district-7/district-7-projects/d7-sr39-reopening>
- **60-day Public Comment Period:** March 13 – May 11, 2024
- **Public Hearing:**
 - April 20, 2024 - Virtual
- **Final Environmental Document:** Fall 2024
- **Final Project Approval:** Spring 2025

We'd Like to Hear From You

- Comments on the Draft EIR/EA impacts or mitigation measures
- Additional questions you would like answered in the Final Environmental Document
- Comments on any of the project alternatives
- Comments must be submitted by Saturday, May 11, 2024.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

All comments received will become part of the project record and will provide valuable input to our project team. **Comments must be submitted by Saturday, May 11, 2024.**

- **Comment verbally or submit a written comment at the public hearing**
- **Mail comments to:**
Karl Price
Division of Environmental Planning (Project EA 07-34770)
California Department of Transportation, District 7
100 South Main Street, MS 16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Email comments to: SR-39DEDComments@dot.ca.gov**



YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT

- Fill out a Speaker/Comment Card
- Three names will be called a time; please line up and be prepared
- State your FIRST and LAST NAME
- Speak clearly for the court reporter
- Each comment or question will be addressed in writing in the Final Environmental Document
- No response to comments tonight
- Please listen and speak respectfully

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

