

**Caltrans Route 46E Corridor Study:
Public Engagement Initiation
Facilitated Session**

**December 20, 2007
Steering Committee Meeting Summary**

Prepared by:



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December 2007

Introduction

On December 20, 2007 the Steering Committee of the Caltrans Highway 46E Comprehensive Corridor Study met for the first time to review the Public Engagement Strategy designed by MIG, Inc. and address other issues related to the State Study.

The Steering Committee was formed to resolve issues that the Study Team and the Technical Advisory Committee could not reach agreement on and periodically review and approve the work of the Study Team.

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Director, called the meeting to order and thanked Steering Committee members for their attendance. Rich explained that 46 East is a significant corridor for all of the agencies represented on the Steering Committee and that maintaining a high-performing corridor is a funding and technical challenge.

Meeting Attendees

Caltrans: Rich Krumholz, Aileen Loe, Larry Newland

City of Paso Robles: Ron Whisenand, representing Jim App

SLOCOG: Rich Murphy, representing Ron DeCarli

SLO County: David Flynn, Glenn Priddy

MIG: Paul Rosenbloom, Carolyn Verheyen

Study Team Member Updates

Caltrans

Caltrans staff requested comments on the draft TCR for the corridor from the partner agencies. Paso Robles has submitted comments, SLOCOG will submit comments shortly and San Luis Obispo County staff will submit comments once they have had an opportunity to review the TCR.

Data collection for the CSMP has revealed that capacity on Highway 101 could be limited. The capacity of 101 may impact improvement activities at the 101/46 interchange.

SLOCOG

Rich Murphy explained that he will have to share the new information about potential capacity limitations on 101 and the resulting impact on 46E improvements with the SLOCOG Board. He asked for guidance regarding any interim solutions that might address the situation.

San Luis Obispo County

Glen Priddy shared that staffing changes at the County will impact who represent the County at future Study Team and Steering Committee meetings.

Public Engagement Refinement

Carolyn shared the public engagement process that MIG has designed. The ensuing discussion resulted in the following changes:

- ✓ Removing mention of Buena Vista Closure in the Key Messages and Questions section
- ✓ Removing all ‘project’ references from the Public Engagement narrative
- ✓ Rescheduling the second round of elected official briefings to ensure that draft Improvement Concepts can be presented in advance of the May Community Workshop.

Logo

The Steering Committee approved the project logo designed by MIG

Slogan

Carolyn presented the following slogan concepts:

- ✓ 46 East for your future
- ✓ 46 East for the future
- ✓ 46 East: easing your/the way.

Rich did not think the term ‘easing’ reflected the Caltrans mission and asked for a slogan concept that would ensure the public that efforts in the corridor will ensure safety today, and preserve safety and mobility for the future. MIG will work with Caltrans to finalize the slogan during the first week of January, 2008.

Elected Official Briefings

Carolyn reviewed the Elected Official briefing task and asked for timing suggestions. Steering Committee members suggested a January briefing to discuss the public engagement process and Larry will coordinate these meetings.

Ron explained that the Paso Robles City Council will want to know specifics about the improvement concepts and will need to be reminded that those concepts are under development. They may be frustrated, as corridor improvements have been discussed for some time with little resulting action.

The election cycle at partner agencies will impact what elected officials are consulted.

Stakeholder Groups

The Steering Committee agreed that stakeholder group meetings with a variety of property owners will provide useful information to the Study Team. The meetings will be held in advance of the May workshop and the property owners will be given a ‘sneak peak’ of the improvement concepts. The meetings will give property owners an opportunity to air concerns in advance of the public workshop and allow MIG and partner agencies to prepare for concerns that may arise at the larger workshops.

Other issues

- ✓ Aileen requested that the Public Engagement document be updated to match with the Process Graphic.
- ✓ Rich Murphy requested that MIG encourage public participants to be forward looking at public workshops and not carry forward old frustrations from previous corridor improvement projects.
- ✓ Ron asked what Caltrans plans to do if the feedback generated through the public engagement process is not what is expected.

Funding

The City of Paso Robles and SLOCOG are planning to lobby the CTC to direct excess 46 East widening funds to the dual left improvements at the 46/ 101 interchange. Rich Krumholz explained that he will not support the effort, as reallocating funding from the widening project would send the wrong message to the CTC. Securing funding for the widening was a major accomplishment and Rich wants to maintain project momentum and funding. Rich explained that he will secure \$1 million of funding for ramp metering at Spring Street.