

El Dorado County/Caltrans Coordination Meeting
Level of Service for US Highway 50
October 23, 2013
Meeting Record

Location of Meeting: Caltrans District 3, Venture Oaks Building
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95833

Attendees: Andrew Brandt, Caltrans
Nieves Castro, Caltrans
Jeff Pulverman, Caltrans
Jasdeep Randhawa, Caltrans
Cynthia Smith, Caltrans
Susan Zanchi, Caltrans
Susan Wilson, Caltrans
David Defanti, El Dorado County
Natalie Porter, El Dorado County
Claudia Wade, El Dorado County
Sharon Scherzinger, El Dorado County Transportation Commission
Bruce Griesenbeck, SACOG

LOS Calculations on State Highways

Jas Randhawa gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed Caltrans (statewide) uses the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) 2010 methodology for basic freeway segments to calculate Level of Service (LOS), which is based upon traffic density – and is not based upon congested speed as was presented to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on 9/30/2013. Natalie Porter mentioned in that presentation that congested speed was a factor in determining LOS based upon an LOS chart that a citizen's group received from Caltrans. That LOS chart originated from the Caltrans Environmental website (see link below), and is used by staff as a visual aid in environmental documents when discussing 'Purpose and Need' for a project (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/forms.htm>). The chart uses 53 mph as the division between LOS E and F, based on the free flow curve, for a freeway facility with a free flow speed of 70 mph. Exhibit 11-6 from the HCM 2010 was presented at the meeting to explain this. As mentioned above Caltrans uses the HCM software to determine LOS for Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) segments.

Historical and Future Traffic Growth

Caltrans also presented its methodology for calculating future traffic growth rates, which is based on travel demand model future volumes growth and linear regression analysis of historical growth on the freeway segments in question. County staff presented information to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on 9/30/2013 that stated Caltrans uses a population growth rate of 3%, while the historical population growth has been approximately 1%. Caltrans does not consider population growth separately in its calculations. Population growth is a component in the travel demand model and is part of the land use dataset. Therefore population growth is considered in the final growth rates, because Caltrans compares and evaluates historical growth and the travel demand model growth to determine the final growth rate. While population growth in El Dorado County has historically been at 1%, traffic volumes on US 50 in El Dorado County have grown to over 4% annually in some segments over the last 20 years.

Caltrans' System Planning documents currently show "Sacramento/El Dorado County Line to Cameron Park Drive" as one segment of US Highway 50. Caltrans stated that this may no longer adequately reflect LOS for existing and future operational conditions, and that they will reconsider this segmentation

in the upcoming update of the Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP). Caltrans invited El Dorado County staff to provide comments on the following preliminary draft segmentation of US Highway 50:

- Sacramento/El Dorado County Line to El Dorado Hills Blvd
- El Dorado Hills Blvd to Bass Lake Road
- Bass Lake Road to Cameron Park Drive

The Draft CSMP update will be released for review and comment in early 2014.

Measure Y and Caltrans' Perspective

Measure Y is a policy in the General Plan that requires developers to mitigate traffic impacts from new development. Per this policy, new development cannot cause LOS 'F' for the highways, roadways, interchanges and intersections, nor can it worsen an existing LOS 'F' on the transportation system. Caltrans considers "Measure Y" a local issue. Caltrans' priority is the management of State Highway operations and safety, along with its responsibility for requesting mitigation of traffic impacts on the State Highway System from proposed development projects.

Prior to the October 23rd meeting, El Dorado County staff had forwarded to Caltrans a question/request from a citizen's group for an LOS analysis on US Highway 50 after certain development projects are built. Caltrans' response was that they have not traditionally performed model runs with specific development changes because the resulting land use falls under the authority of local municipalities. Caltrans suggested the citizen's group may want to consider hiring a consultant for this analysis.

Jim Calkins indicated the County could consider using micro-simulation to show the benefits to traffic flow on US Highway 50 with the addition of new ramp meters and auxiliary lanes in the LOS 'F' areas.

Follow-Up and Action Items

1. Natalie Porter, Claudia Wade, Jas Randhawa and Sharon Scherzinger are scheduled to meet on October 30th to discuss the detailed LOS methodologies used by the County and Caltrans with the goal of determining if there are any differences in LOS methodologies between the two agencies, and if there are, develop a clear explanation of those differences for the Board of Supervisors and Caltrans management. The new travel demand model volumes will also be discussed.
2. Dave Defanti indicated County staff would go back to the Board of Supervisors in about 6 weeks to clarify that density, not speed, is used to calculate LOS for US Highway 50 CSMP. Speed is an outcome of traffic density.
3. Caltrans staff will revisit the current segmentation of US Highway 50 for the CSMP update, currently being prepared by District 3 staff, to determine if any revisions are needed. Caltrans will request El Dorado County staff input regarding the segmentation.
4. Nieves Castro requested to be kept informed of progress on the El Dorado County Travel Demand Model Update, as it impacts the schedule for the Highway 50 CSMP Update effort.

Attachments: 1) Agenda for Meeting
2) Question posed by citizen's group



AGENDA

El Dorado County / Caltrans Coordination Meeting Level of Service for US Highway 50 Wednesday, October 23, 2013

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

District 3 Location: Caltrans District 3, Venture Oaks Building
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150, Large Conference Room
Sacramento, CA 95833

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
2:00	Introductions	All
2:05	Purpose of Meeting, Level of Service (LOS) Calculations for US Hwy 50 in El Dorado County	Natalie Porter/ Castro Nieves
2:10	1) LOS Methodology for Planning Documents 2) Existing Conditions and Future Analysis	Jas Randhawa
2:30	Historical and Future Traffic Growth	Jas Randhawa
2:40	Items from El Dorado County Staff	Dave Defanti, Claudia Wade Natalie Porter
2:50	Travel Demand Model Update/ TIM Fee/ CIP Update Status	Dave Defanti, Claudia Wade Natalie Porter
2:55	Follow-up / Action Items	All
3:00	Adjourn	

Wilson, Susan@DOT

From: Natalie Porter [natalie.porter@edcgov.us]
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 4:49 PM
To: Randhawa, Jasdeep S@DOT; Smith, Cynthia D@DOT; Wilson, Susan@DOT; Claudia Wade
Cc: David Defanti; sscherzinger@edctc.org
Subject: Fwd: CalTrans Question

Hi All -

I am forwarding this question(s) to Jaz and Cynthia from the Measure Y committee. I am assuming the committee is referring to a planning level analysis, but we can discuss the background at our meeting on Wednesday.

See you on Wednesday.

Thanks!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Don Van Dyke <don.a.van.dyke@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 3:25 PM
Subject: CalTrans Question
To: David Defanti <david.defanti@edcgov.us>, Natalie Porter <natalie.porter@edcgov.us>
Cc: Bill Center <bclotus@innercite.com>, Jim Moore <jim@mooremethods.com>, Don VanDyke <don.a.van.dyke@sbcglobal.net>

Hi David-

Here is the question we would like CalTrans to answer:

When the following approved projects (A) and (B) are built-out, what will the LOS traffic levels be on Highway 50 (East-bound and West-bound) between Folsom Boulevard and Greenstone Road for the following segments:

1. Folsom Blvd to Scott Road
2. Scott Road to El Dorado County line
3. El Dorado County line to El Dorado Hills Blvd/Latrobe Road
4. El Dorado Hills Blvd/Latrobe Road to Silva Valley Parkway
5. Silva Valley Parkway to Cameron Park Drive
6. Cameron Park Drive to Ponderosa Road
7. Ponderosa Road to Greenstone Road

Projects:

(A) 16,000 already entitled parcels in El Dorado County (6400 in El Dorado Hills, 2200 in Cameron Park/Shingle Springs, 7200 in remaining rural and central country areas)

(B) 10,000 approved homes and businesses in the South of 50 development in Folsom

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