

CONTRA COSTA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BREAKS GROUND ON SAN PABLO DAM ROAD PROJECT

Construction begins on I-80 San Pablo Dam Road Interchange Project – First Phase of Project to Alleviate Congestion and Improve Traffic Safety

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San Pablo, CA – The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of San Pablo, marked the start of work on the first phase of the much-needed \$118 million Interstate 80/San Pablo Dam Road Interchange Reconstruction project with a groundbreaking ceremony this morning.

The project aims to help alleviate congestion and improve traffic safety at the I-80/San Pablo Dam Road interchange and adjacent interchange of El Portal Drive and McBryde Avenue. The first phase, anticipated to be complete in spring of 2017, will relocate the El Portal Drive on-ramp to the westbound side of I-80 to the north, extend the auxiliary lane along westbound I-80 between the San Pablo Dam Road off-ramp and the El Portal Drive on-ramp, and reconstruct the Riverside Avenue pedestrian overcrossing.

In contracting for this project, CCTA required that bidders meet a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation goal for both the contractor and Construction Management. Contractors were required to meet a goal of at least ten percent of their total contract value using DBEs. Brosamer & Wall, the selected contractor, is using certified DBE subcontractors at a participation rate of 11.15 percent to provide traffic control, fencing, landscape/irrigation, concrete, electrical, and other services throughout construction. For Construction Management, CCTA established an aggressive DBE goal of 25 percent. The Hanna Group was selected as the Construction Manager for this project and will use certified DBE consultants at a participation rate of 26.05 percent to provide structure inspections, safety inspections, and document control.

"We're proud to be launching a major project to keep Contra Costa moving, and we've made an extra effort to ensure that the project team is representative of the region, going above and beyond typical requirements," said Tom Butt, CCTA Vice-Chair. "This project will not only improve regional mobility on one of the busiest corridors in the Bay Area, but it will also create local jobs and boost the local economy."

The new San Pablo Dam Road Interchange provides a safer egress for motorists on Interstate 80 and also provides additional safety measures for students walking and riding their bicycles to nearby schools. I am proud of our partnership with Riverside Elementary School, CCTA, and the city of San Pablo to develop our shared highway system, and meet the challenges of the local communities where transportation projects are located," says Caltrans District Director Bijan Sartipi.

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CONTRA COSTA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY LAUNCHES PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORT

Feedback sought to inform future investments in the county's transportation system

Construction on El Portal Drive will continue through early April, weather permitting, to relocate existing utilities, reconstruct the sidewalk, and reconstruct and realign El Portal Drive – as well as the eastbound I-80 off-ramp at El Portal Drive. Preliminary work has also begun at Riverside Elementary School. The Riverside Avenue pedestrian overcrossing will be extended across Amador Street, improving pedestrian safety, especially for school children.

“San Pablo Dam Road provides vital access to I-80 for our residents and the West County region,” said Rich Kinney, mayor of the City of San Pablo. “In addition to alleviating major traffic volumes at this vital interchange, this regional transportation improvement project will make the interchange safer overall for bicyclists, pedestrians, seniors/disabled persons, and our local school children.”

“The safety of the students at Riverside Elementary School is our top priority,” said Randy Enos, West Contra Costa Unified School District School Board President. “The new pedestrian bridge will help us keep students and their families safe as they walk to and from school each day. We are also pleased that our children have the opportunity to leave their own artistic marks on the new overcrossing.”

Benefits of the project include improved traffic operations, reduced traffic congestion, efficient and safe bicycle/pedestrian access at the interchange, and the accommodation of future traffic volumes on San Pablo Dam Road.

About the Project

The Interstate 80/San Pablo Dam Road interchange provides access between residential areas north and east of the interchange, and Bay Area employment centers. The interchange is currently experiencing severe peak hour congestion, resulting in extensive delays. Future traffic forecasts indicate that existing congestion is projected to increase, resulting in further deterioration of traffic operations.

The first phase of the project will relocate the El Portal Drive onramp to westbound I-80 to the north, extend the auxiliary lane along westbound I-80 between the San Pablo Dam Road off-ramp and the El Portal Drive on-ramp, and reconstruct the Riverside Avenue pedestrian overcrossing. Remaining improvements will be completed in a second phase.

The \$118.8 million project benefits both vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle traffic by enhancing operations and safety within the interchange area and is being constructed in partnership with Caltrans and the City of San Pablo.

About The Contra Costa Transportation Authority

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) is a public agency formed by Contra Costa voters in 1988 to manage the county's transportation sales tax program and oversee countywide transportation planning efforts. CCTA is responsible for planning, funding and delivering critical transportation infrastructure projects and programs that connect our communities, foster a strong economy, increase sustainability and safely and efficiently get people where they need to go. CCTA also serves as the county's designated Congestion

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Management Agency, responsible for putting programs in place to keep traffic levels manageable. More information about CCTA can be found online at [ccta.net](http://www.ccta.net).

More information about the project can be found at: <http://www.ccta.net/sanpablodamroad>

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