

WHAT IS THE PROJECT SCHEDULE?

The Draft Technical Reports for the project are currently being completed and have been submitted for agency review and several of them have been finalized. The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is currently in preparation. The next step is for the Draft EIR/EIS to be reviewed by RCTC and Caltrans and then released for public review. The next public meeting will occur when the Draft EIR/EIS is being reviewed by the public (anticipated Winter 2009). RCTC will be accepting comments on the Draft EIR/EIS during this period. After public comments have been reviewed, the selection of a preferred alternative for the Project will be considered. Then, the Final EIR/EIS will be prepared to respond to public comments and to document the Project alternative that has been selected.

WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS?

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the County of Riverside, and the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto are all partners in this Project.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT SURVEYS?

The majority of the Project survey work has been completed! RCTC would like to thank all of the property owners that cooperated during this field survey effort. There are just a few surveys left to complete. These remaining surveys are for cultural resources and geotechnical work.

2004-2006	2007-2008	2009	2010-2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conduct Scoping Meetings (Fall 2004) ✓ Evaluate and Redefine Alternatives ✓ Conduct Field Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete Technical Reports ✓ Prepare Draft EIR/EIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Prepare Draft EIR/EIS • Circulate Draft EIR/EIS • Conduct Public Hearings • Identify Preferred Alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate Final EIR/EIS • Acquire Right-of-Way • Final Design • Begin Construction
✓ Completed	→ In Progress		

WHO CAN I CONTACT ABOUT THE SR-79 REALIGNMENT PROJECT?

If you have comments or questions about the SR-79 Realignment Project email us through our website at www.sr79project.info or call (951) 787-7141. You may also write to:

Cathy Bechtel—Project Delivery Director
Riverside County Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 12008 • Riverside, CA 92505-2208



WHAT IS THE SR-79 REALIGNMENT PROJECT?



This SR-79 Realignment Project (Project) proposes to realign SR-79 between Domenigoni Parkway and Gilman Springs Road. Currently, the highway follows a circuitous north-south route through the downtown areas of Hemet and San Jacinto and needs improvements in efficiency, safety and capacity. The Project would realign the highway to provide a more direct route within the San Jacinto Valley. Regional motorists will be able to use a direct, north-south route while residents of Hemet and San Jacinto will enjoy better mobility on local streets.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE SR-79 REALIGNMENT PROJECT?

Many technical studies are completed and the Draft EIR/EIS is being prepared for circulation in 2009. The Draft EIR/EIS will evaluate Corridors 1 and 2 as identified on the Project location map (see inside). Both the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto have selected Locally Preferred Alternatives. The City of Hemet adopted a Locally Preferred Alternative through a resolution dated May 13, 2008. San Jacinto had previously selected a Locally Preferred Alternative in January 2006. The final Preferred Alternative will be selected after the Draft EIR/EIS is circulated to the public for review. Activities are currently underway to prepare for circulating the Draft EIR/EIS to the public this year.





SR-79 REALIGNMENT PROJECT

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PROJECT ALTERNATIVES?

The current Project alternatives still under review consist of Corridors 1 and 2 and are shown on the Project location map to the right. Both Corridors 1 and 2 begin south of Domenigoni Parkway and end immediately south of the San Jacinto River on Sanderson Avenue. There are four areas where Corridors 1 and 2 are different. There are two main choices in the south near the community of Winchester. To the south of Florida Avenue in the City of Hemet, the alignments differ by going through the hills or around them to the west. At Esplanade Avenue, one alignment crosses Esplanade west of Warren Road while the other crosses Esplanade Avenue east of Warren Road. In the north in San Jacinto, one alignment is closer to Sanderson Avenue, while the other is closer to Warren Road.

The locations along the roadway for potential intersection or interchange locations are shown on the Project location map as blue dots. These locations would be the only areas where drivers would be able to access the realigned SR-79 once constructed. The Project location map is also posted on the Project website: go to www.sr79project.info and click on "Location Map."

HAS A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE PROJECT?

Currently, a preferred alternative has not been selected for the Project. The consideration of a preferred alternative for the Project will begin after the Draft EIR/EIS is circulated for public review in late 2009.

The Cities of Hemet and San Jacinto have identified their preference for a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Project. The City of Hemet LPA was adopted by resolution on May 13, 2008, and is shown on the Project Location Map as a yellow line with a green center. The City of San Jacinto LPA was adopted as part of their General Plan in January 2006 and is shown on the Project Location Map as a yellow line with a blue center. The County of Riverside has not selected a Locally Preferred Alternative.

