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SCTA leverages local funds to build next phase of Highway 101 widening
Regional action aims to advance new lanes south of Petaluma

SANTA ROSA, CA – On the heels of a recent success with Measure M sales tax bonds, the SCTA announced today that a committee of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will consider matching local funds to build the next phase of widening in the Highway 101 corridor – opening five miles of new lanes in each direction south of the Petaluma River Bridge. The proposal leverages \$14M in local Measure M funds that were recently advanced by SCTA through a bond re-funding. The MTC funding of \$20M comes through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

“By taking action, MTC is partnering with SCTA to deliver a longstanding project – adding a third lane to Hwy 101 in both directions across the Marin/Sonoma County line. We need to get this project built and tomorrow’s vote gets us one step closer,” said Jake Mackenzie, Chair of the SCTA Highway 101 Ad Hoc Committee and MTC Commissioner representing Sonoma County and the nine cities.

“While we still have work to do, this project will give us new lanes from the Petaluma Bridge all the way across the County line,” said David Rabbitt, the SCTA Vice-Chair and County Supervisor representing the Petaluma area. “We are squeezing out as much value as possible from our local sales tax measure and getting projects built.”

Current construction in the area is expected to continue through 2018 with work on the Petaluma River Bridges wrapping up in 2016 as new work begins at the county line. SCTA manages the delivery and funding of Highway 101 projects in conjunction with Caltrans.

“This is great news,” said Kathy Miller, SCTA Director and Vice Mayor of Petaluma. “By keeping our focus on project delivery and making sure we are ready to go, we have been able to take advantage of every opportunity to secure the funding necessary to build the new HOV lanes.”

Ultimately, the Marin/Sonoma Narrows Project will widen 17 miles of Highway 101 from four to six lanes by adding one HOV lane in each direction; creating a controlled access freeway section through the historic “Narrows;” upgrading the highway to current freeway standards from Route 37 in Novato to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma; and constructing new interchanges, frontage roads and bikeways. It is part of the overall regional plan to provide continuous HOV lanes through Marin and Sonoma Counties. To date, funding has been secured to construct key portions of the project including the Petaluma River Bridges, Petaluma Boulevard South interchange, and widening and realignment of the highway in certain locations. The early work has also funded the necessary right of way acquisition, utility relocation and environmental mitigation.

The MTC Committee is poised to recommend to the full Commission that they provide \$20M in funding through the 2016 STIP. The full Commission is scheduled to take up the item on December 16.

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