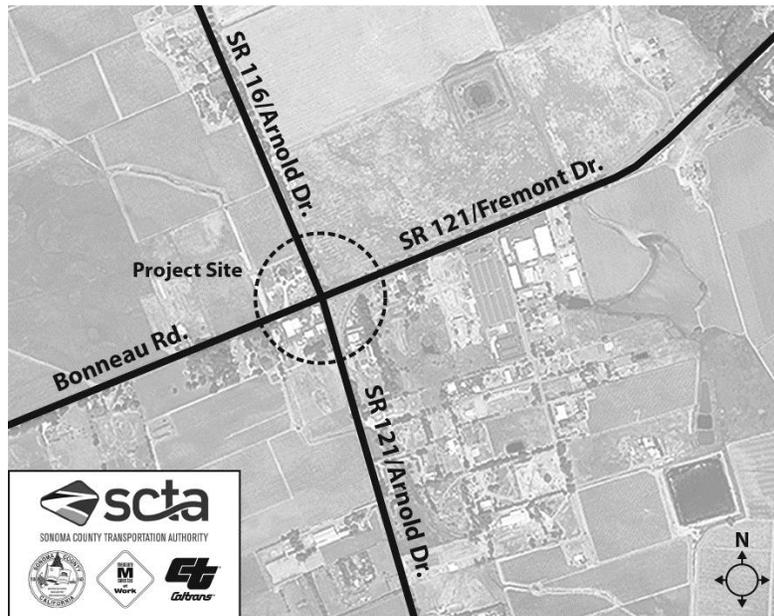




PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON A DRAFT SECTION 4(F) DE MINIMIS DETERMINATION FOR THE STATE ROUTE 116/121 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT and NOTICE OF A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE.



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED: The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) propose to improve the traffic operations at the State Route (SR) 116/121 intersection in an unincorporated portion of Sonoma County at SR 116 Post Mile (PM) 46/46.7 and SR 121 PM 5.8/R7.4 through either a roundabout or a signalized intersection. The proposed project would relieve traffic congestion and enhance mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians, and provide enhanced access to adjacent properties and parking for public transit and carpool users where possible.

WHY THIS NOTICE: Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment to report the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show that the project will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. A proposed mitigated negative declaration has been prepared. The proposed project will encroach upon wetlands. The project is being evaluated to determine if there are any practical alternatives to avoid this encroachment, or, if not, to ensure that all practical measures are taken to minimize harm to the wetlands. The proposed work will have a non adverse affect on a historic property eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places. Caltrans has evaluated whether adequate avoidance and minimization measures can be incorporated into the project plans.

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM2.5) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a Project of Air Quality Concern regarding particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed PM10 and PM2.5 hot-spot analysis was not completed because Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements are met without an explicit hot-spot analysis. The proposed project is included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Comments are requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

Caltrans also announces their intent to adopt a U.S. Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f) De Minimis Determination for this intersection improvement project. Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 seeks to protect publically owned parks and recreation areas, wildlife refuges, and historic sites that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Provisions to carry out this evaluation are recorded in 23 CFR 774.17, Section 4(f). As part of the Safe, Accountable and Efficient Transportation Equity Act- A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)) Act of 2005, the legislature established the de minimis finding process, in which determinations are made regarding 4(f) resources when no adverse effects would occur. De minimis impacts are defined as those that do not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes for which the property qualifies as a 4(f) resource.

This notice is to tell you of the preparation of an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment and of its availability for you to review and provide comments. A public open house will be held to give you the opportunity to talk about certain design features of the project with Caltrans staff before the preferred alternatives selected.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE: The Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment and Draft Section 4(f) De Minimis Determination are available for review and copying at the Caltrans District Office (111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA, 96412), on weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It is also available at the Sonoma Valley Regional Library (755 W. Napa Street, Sonoma, CA, 95476), and the Petaluma Regional Library (100 Fairgrounds Drive, Sonoma, CA, 94952). The document may be downloaded at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm> or from SCTA's website <http://www.sctainfo.org>. <http://scta.ca.gov/>

WHERE YOU COME IN: A public open house will be held to discuss the project and Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment and draft Section 4(f) De Minimis determination. If you cannot attend the open house you can send your written comments to Caltrans (Arnica MacCarthy, Caltrans; P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623 or by email at Arnica.MacCarthy@dot.ca.gov). All comments must be postmarked no later than **August 2, 2016**.

WHEN AND WHERE: The public open house will be held on July 13, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Finnish American Home Association located at 197 West Verano Ave, Sonoma, CA 95476.

CONTACT: For any information about this study call SCTA (707-565-5373) or Caltrans (510-286-7195). Individuals who require documents in alternative formats are requested to contact the District 4 Public Affairs Office at (510) 286-6445. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.