

Planning Process for Highways 165/99 Improvements Public Open House Meeting – April 22, 2009 Public Comments

The following comments were made at the public open house meeting on April 22, 2009 for the Highways 165/99 Improvements Project. The comments will be considered by the Project Development Team as they prepare a Project Study Report as part of the Planning Process for Highways 165/99 Improvements.

ROUTES

- Address Hageman Bridge.
- Make Griffith an expressway.
- Use Griffith as a bypass. It's already a County road
- Don't make Griffith an expressway or consider it for a bypass. There are 80 homes on Griffith as well as family businesses.
- Columbus Avenue is not a good alternative because it has limited right-of-way options and is not a two lane road.
- Explain where Columbus Avenue would connect with Highway 99.
- Explain if a bypass would go down the middle of Stevinson.
- Build an overpass over Hilmar.
- Install a bypass to the east, around Hilmar.
- Consider the concerns of businesses in Hilmar when examining alternatives.
- There is a new intersection at Livingston that should be connected to Highway 165 because it is already designed for truck traffic. It is a shorter route to reach Highway 165 than the current access from Turlock, and wouldn't require a new bridge over the Merced River.

IMPROVEMENTS

- Consider installing left turn lanes for trucks at the sales yard at Lander and Fowler.
- Install a passing lane in Hilmar.
- Consider widening the road and adding passing lanes.
- Consider the entrances and exits to subdivisions when planning a new route.

BUS ROUTES

- Be considerate of the bus routes for the Hilmar, Delhi and Turlock schools.
- Consider adding buses on Griffith.

GROWTH

- Address how much more traffic will be coming through Hilmar if more homes are built in Los Banos.
- Explain where a bypass would be installed in relation to current homes and plans for growth.

TRAFFIC PATTERNS

- Examine traffic in Hilmar and explain how far south destination traffic travels.

CONGESTION

- Highway 165 is currently flooded with traffic lights. Explain if this project will change that.
- In Hilmar, there is congestion due to one north/south exit and the schools along Highway 165. The schools slow traffic. During drop-off and pick-up times at schools, Highway 165 gets very congested.
- There is congestion at the intersection of Lander and Gear.

SAFETY

- Speeding is a concern along Highway 165.
- Griffith serves three school districts – Hilmar, Delhi and Turlock. Bus drivers stop buses on Griffith so students can safely cross the street. Installing a bypass on Griffith could affect student safety.

TRUCK TRAFFIC

- There is a high volume of semi trucks on Gloss.
- Establish a weight limit on Highway 165 to reduce truck traffic.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

- If you use existing roads (for improvements), you'll always have a conflict with existing homes and schools.
- Taking of property is a big concern.

FUNDING

- Provide information on how the project would be funded and if there is confidence amongst the project agencies that they will receive further funding for the project.

PROJECT INFORMATION

- Provide information on other studies have been done on this project.
- Provide information on how many alternatives are typically reviewed or proposed for a project like this.
- Provide a schedule with proposed construction dates.