

Highway 37 Stewardship Study for Corridor Planning
Transportation Research Board (TRB)
Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) Funded

SHRP 2 is a research program to develop approaches and tools for systematically integrating environmental, economic, and community requirements into the analysis, planning, and design of new highway capacity. The study will test tools and techniques for conducting collaborative studies that TRB has developed in earlier research, including balancing environmental considerations with mobility goals.

Applicants: UC Davis Road Ecology Center and Caltrans, District 4.

Application Partners: Napa County Resource Conservation District, Southern Sonoma County RCD, Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Land Trust

Research Time Frame: March 2011 through May 2012 (14 months)

Purpose of Study:

Conduct a multi-functional and multi-agency collaborative study on future concepts for State Route (SR) 37. Study would convene transportation, natural resource protection agency and community stakeholders to develop a vision and concepts for SR 37. This would be an innovative approach to corridor system planning, and could provide a best practice for future corridors.

Outcome/Deliverables:

- Convene stakeholders in collaborative effort.
- Identify issues, constraints in the corridor including sea level rise and marsh restoration.
- Develop purpose and need for corridor to guide future scenarios development.
- Use impacts assessment and valuation tools to support scenario comparison
- Recommend a range of potential solutions to meet mobility, safety and environmental goals.

Study Supports Regional Goals:

- Safety and Mobility
- Context Sensitive Solutions, Complete Streets
- Complement MTC/ABAG response to SB 375, Sustainable Community Strategy, "One Bay Area" FOCUS

Benefits of the Study:

- Develop an early integrated transportation and environmental planning process that will enhance delivery of projects for SR 37 by showing benefits of various approaches and promoting collaboration of stakeholders.
- Meet current and future capacity/travel demands in the North Bay region including multi-modal transportation.
- Provide upfront knowledge of constraints for designing future projects.
- Explore solutions to maintenance and weed abatement challenges.
- Support restoration efforts for tidal marshes with the natural resource agencies.
- Promote multi-modal approaches to mobility in the region.
- Enhance recreational access to preserved lands.

Tasks and Outputs of the Research Study:

- Build collaborative partnerships and vision for SR 37 that meets multiple goals.

- Ingrate ecosystem plans including the MTC/ABAG FOCUS planning and the Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- Create framework for integrated planning and decisions in the corridor.
- Assess Transportation Effects on the SR 37 Environment.
- Establish Potential Ecological and Transportation Actions that could be proposed for SR 37.
- Test benefits and costs and relative outcomes of actions. Working in collaboration with resources agencies, test value of impacts, avoidance and mitigation.
- Develop foundation for model agreements among infrastructure and resources agencies.

Key Actual and Potential Partners:

Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency
 Solano Transportation Authority
 Sonoma County Transportation Authority
 Transportation Authority of Marin
 Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Agencies that support restoring health of the bay; Napa and Petaluma rivers, Sonoma Creek
 Agencies that support salmon and steelhead restoration
 Association of Bay Area Governments (Bay Trails, FOCUS)
 Audubon Society
 Sierra Club
 Marin Agricultural Land Trust
 Sonoma Ecology Center

California Highway Patrol
 Cities of Novato and Vallejo
 Contra Costa Transportation Authority
 Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART)
 Metropolitan Transportation Commission
 North Coast Railroad Authority
 Water Emergency Transportation Authority

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 California Department of Fish & Game
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries
 San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
 United States Fish & Wildlife Service