



Tuolumne County Transportation Council

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June 10, 2015

John Roccanova – Project Manager
California Department of Transportation - District 10
P.O. Box 2048
Stockton, CA 95201

Subject: Yosemite Junction - State Route (SR) 108 and 120 Intersection PID.

Dear Mr. Roccanova:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Yosemite Junction - SR 108 and 120 intersection safety improvement project. We look forward to collaborating with Caltrans District 10 on this safety project. We appreciate District 10's initiative to program this needed safety improvement project into the 2014 SHOPP. We understand the deadline is approaching to program the Yosemite Junction Intersection Safety Improvement Project into the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) by June 30th. As we understand, there is not enough time to evaluate and analyze a third design concept alternative intersection in the Draft Project Study Report and program the project into the 2014 SHOPP by the deadline. According to Caltrans District 10, there will be sufficient time and budget to evaluate the High T-intersection as an alternative concept design and other TCTC comments in the PA&ED phase. The Tuolumne County Transportation Council voted at the June 10th 2015 meeting to recommend to Caltrans District 10 to include the High T-Intersection as an alternative concept design in the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase for the Yosemite Junction - State Route 108 and 120 Intersection Improvement Project.

Within the Yosemite Grand National Transportation Impact Study, the High T-Intersection was collaboratively supported as an alternative concept design for Yosemite Junction - SR 108 and 120 intersection. Limited sight distance for the westbound downhill traffic on SR 108 raises concerns with the signalized intersection and the roundabout alternatives which would require traffic to either stop or slow down rapidly. The High T-Intersection Design Concept would eliminate the need for westbound traffic to slow down rapidly at this intersection. TCTC recommends to Caltrans to include the Yosemite Grand National Concept Design as depicted in the Attachment with the following additions:

- For eastbound SR 108 traffic, there would be three lanes with two through lanes and one right turn/deceleration lane.
- After the Yosemite Junction intersection, SR 108 eastbound traffic would have two acceleration lanes that would connect with the existing climbing lanes.

At the June 3rd Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, both Committees recommended additional project evaluation and analysis in the PA&ED phase including:

- Adding signal cameras (or some other device) that can detect large trucks and that can synchronize east and west bound traffic on SR 108 with the signals at O'Byrnes Ferry Rd. and at Yosemite Junction. Such devices would facilitate goods movement up and down the hill grades.
- Provide a public education campaign if the roundabout is selected as the final choice for this intersection.
- Advance warning signs and/or flashing beacons for traffic along SR 108 entering into the Yosemite Junction Intersection particularly for westbound traffic.
- With these improvements, there should also be an analysis performed to evaluate access for existing and future businesses at the Yosemite Junction Intersection.
- The Yosemite Grand National Development is located next to the Yosemite Junction Intersection Improvement Project and has submitted an application to the County for a development project and that should be considered in PA&ED phase.
- Traffic speed and level of service (LOS) on adjacent segments of SR 120 and 108 should be considered in the PA&ED phase.

We look forward to participating at the Project Development Team during the PA&ED phase. If you have any questions about our comments on the Yosemite Junction – SR 108 & 120 Intersection Safety Improvement Project, please contact Darin Grossi at 209/533-5583.

Sincerely,


Mike Ayala
TCTC Chairman