Riverside County Transportation Commission

RCTC modifies the mid county parkway plans

In response to comments received from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statements for the proposed Mid County Parkway (MCP), the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) took action on July 8, 2009 to focus the project limits to the portion between I-215 and SR-79. This newsletter provides more information on this action as well as next steps for the project.

**WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY PROJECT?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary</td>
<td>Draft EIR/EIS</td>
<td>Review of comments</td>
<td>Recirculated Draft EIR/EIS</td>
<td>Final EIR/EIS</td>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies</td>
<td>Public Information</td>
<td>meetings</td>
<td>Public EIR /</td>
<td>Final Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Meetings</td>
<td>Draft EIR /</td>
<td>Public Hearings</td>
<td>Supplemental Draft EIS</td>
<td>Right of way</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Alternatives</td>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>Project modified to I-215 to SR-79</td>
<td>Public Hearings</td>
<td>acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacements</td>
<td>Studies and</td>
<td>Preparation of</td>
<td>Respond to comments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>supplemental and</td>
<td>Obtain other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>of preferred</td>
<td>revised technical</td>
<td>environmental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>alternative</td>
<td>studies</td>
<td>approvals and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>permits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RCTC and its partners, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans, will revise existing studies and prepare supplemental studies to address the changes to the Mid County Parkway project. A Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS will be prepared to describe the modifications to the project, summarize potential impacts and describe measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.

RCTC will hold additional public hearings during this review period and the public and reviewing agencies will be able to submit verbal and/or written comments in response to the modified project. Additional details on how to submit comments will be announced closer to release of the modified documents.

RCTC and its partners will review and consider all of the comments received from the public and reviewing agencies before any action on a final project is taken.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

If you have comments or questions about the Mid County Parkway, call us at 951-787-7141, email us at our website at www.midcountyparkway.org or write to: Ms. Cathy Bechtel, RCTC, P.O. Box 12008, Riverside, CA 92502-2208.

RCTC MODIFIES THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY PLANS

In response to comments received from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Mid County Parkway (MCP), the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) took action on July 8, 2009 to focus the project limits to the portion between I-215 and SR-79. This newsletter provides more information on this action as well as next steps for the project.

**WHY IS THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY PROJECT CHANGING?**

In October 2008, a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) was released evaluating the alternatives for the Mid County Parkway, a proposed 32-mile corridor designed to stretch from San Jacinto through Perris to Corona to meet regional transportation needs through 2035. The Draft EIR/EIS compiled environmental studies analyzing the effects of the alternatives on the human and natural environment. Public information open houses and public hearings were held in October and November 2008 to collect comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Public and stakeholder input is a critical part of the environmental process. Comments submitted on the Draft EIR/EIS raised environmental and community concerns regarding the portion of the project between I-15 and I-215. These comments have helped us focus the project so we can make the best use of limited transportation dollars while addressing the most immediate traffic needs.

RCTC is maintaining its long term vision but is focusing its near term project approval efforts on the vitally needed eastern 16 miles between I-215 and SR-79.

The modified project does not eliminate the need for a future route that will one day connect I-15 to I-215, as identified as a part of the Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP). RCTC is maintaining that long term vision but RCTC is focusing its near term project approval efforts on the vitally needed eastern 16 miles between I-215 and SR-79.

If you have comments or questions about the Mid County Parkway, call us at 951-787-7141, email us at our website at www.midcountyparkway.org or write to: Ms. Cathy Bechtel, RCTC, P.O. Box 12008, Riverside, CA 92502-2208.
Between October 10, 2008 and January 8, 2009, comments on the Draft EIR/EIS were received from the public and the environmental and transportation public agencies reviewing the project. During this time, six public meetings/hearings were held: three public information meetings in late October 2008, two public hearings in November 2008 and a 1st Supervisorial District public meeting in December 2008. RCTC accepted public comment for the record at all of these meetings, along with comments via the website and email. Over 3,100 comments were received from individuals, public agencies and organizations. Key issues raised in response to the Mid County Parkway Draft EIR/EIS included concerns regarding the financial viability of the project, impacts to rural communities, habitat reserves, consistency with the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and the adequacy of measures to mitigate potential impacts.

In the short term, the County of Riverside is proceeding with its plans to improve Cajalco Road. The Riverside County General Plan Circulation Element designates Cajalco Road from I-15 to I-215 as a four to six-lane major roadway.

The Mid County Parkway alternatives linking I-15 to I-215, as identified in the Draft EIR/EIS released in October 2008, are no longer under consideration. Although the need for a future regional transportation corridor between I-15 and I-215 still exists, there is currently no consensus regarding the best possible route for a regional corridor in this area, nor is there immediate funding for the full parkway project. RCTC remains committed to a future route that will one day connect I-15 to I-215, as identified in CETAP. When regional mobility needs prompt consideration of a new or improved link between I-15 and I-215, a new environmental process will need to be initiated.

The County of Riverside's planned improvements to widen Cajalco Road to four to six lanes between I-15 and I-215 should accommodate traffic demands for the next 20 years.

The timeline will be extended by approximately 2 years to provide time to supplement or revise the engineering and environmental technical studies for the modified Mid County Parkway, coordinate and review technical documents with agencies, reassess impacts, and release a Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS for public review and comment.

Future public meetings and hearings will also be held once the revised draft environmental reports are completed next year, and we will be asking the public and stakeholders for their feedback on the project at that time.

Yes. Focusing on the eastern stretch of the Mid County Parkway between SR-79 and I-215 will allow the project to advance where it is needed first, making best use of limited transportation dollars while providing the most immediate traffic and safety benefits.
In response to comments received from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statements for the proposed Mid County Parkway (MCP), the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) took action on July 8, 2009 to focus the project limits to the portion between I-215 and SR-79. This newsletter provides more information on this action as well as next steps for the project.

why is the mid county parkway project changing?

In October 2008, a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) was released evaluating the alternatives for the Mid County Parkway, a proposed 32-mile corridor designed to stretch from San Jacinto through Perris to Corona to meet regional transportation needs through 2035. The Draft EIR/EIS compiled environmental studies analyzing the effects of the alternatives on the human and natural environment. Public information open houses and public hearings were held in October and November 2008 to collect comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Public and stakeholder input is a critical part of the environmental process. Comments submitted on the Draft EIR/EIS raised environmental and community concerns regarding the portion of the project between I-15 and I-215 and funding concerns about the entire project. These comments have helped us focus the project so we can make the best use of limited transportation dollars while addressing the most immediate traffic needs. The Mid County Parkway project is now a proposed 16-mile transportation corridor to relieve local and regional traffic congestion in the San Jacinto and Perris areas and surrounding Riverside County communities.

Focusing on the eastern stretch of the Mid County Parkway between I-215 and SR-79 will allow RCTC to make the best use of limited transportation dollars while providing immediate traffic and safety benefits where they are needed most. Modifying this project will allow RCTC to move more quickly to provide improvements where the need is greatest and avoid time-consuming delays tied to environmental constraints and community challenges affecting the portion of the original project proposed between I-15 and I-215.

RCTC modifies the Mid County Parkway plans

In response to comments received from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statements for the proposed Mid County Parkway (MCP), the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) took action on July 8, 2009 to focus the project limits to the portion between I-215 and SR-79. This newsletter provides more information on this action as well as next steps for the project.

why is the mid county parkway project changing?

In October 2008, a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) was released evaluating the alternatives for the Mid County Parkway, a proposed 32-mile corridor designed to stretch from San Jacinto through Perris to Corona to meet regional transportation needs through 2035. The Draft EIR/EIS compiled environmental studies analyzing the effects of the alternatives on the human and natural environment. Public information open houses and public hearings were held in October and November 2008 to collect comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Public and stakeholder input is a critical part of the environmental process. Comments submitted on the Draft EIR/EIS raised environmental and community concerns regarding the portion of the project between I-15 and I-215 and funding concerns about the entire project. These comments have helped us focus the project so we can make the best use of limited transportation dollars while addressing the most immediate traffic needs. The Mid County Parkway project is now a proposed 16-mile transportation corridor to relieve local and regional traffic congestion in the San Jacinto and Perris areas and surrounding Riverside County communities.

Focusing on the eastern stretch of the Mid County Parkway between I-215 and SR-79 will allow RCTC to make the best use of limited transportation dollars while providing immediate traffic and safety benefits where they are needed most. Modifying this project will allow RCTC to move more quickly to provide improvements where the need is greatest and avoid time-consuming delays tied to environmental constraints and community challenges affecting the portion of the original project proposed between I-15 and I-215.

The modified project does not eliminate the need for a future route that will one day connect I-15 to I-215, as identified as a part of the Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP). RCTC is maintaining that long term vision but RCTC is focusing its near term project approval efforts on the vitally needed eastern 16 miles between I-215 and SR-79.

what happens next?

RCTC and its partners, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans, will revise existing studies and prepare supplemental studies to address the changes to the Mid County Parkway project. A Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS will be prepared to describe the modifications to the project, summarize potential impacts and describe measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.

The Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS will be released for a 45-day public review period. FHWA, Caltrans, and RCTC will hold additional public hearings during this review period and the public and reviewing agencies will be able to submit verbal and/or written comments in response to the modified project. Additional details on how to submit comments will be announced closer to release of the modified documents.

RCTC and its partners will review and consider all of the comments received from the public and reviewing agencies before any action on a final project is taken.

what is the schedule for the mid county parkway project?

If you have comments or questions about the Mid County Parkway, call us at 951-787-7141, email us at our website at www.midcountyparkway.org or write to: Ms. Cathy Bechtel, RCTC, P.O. Box 12008, Riverside, CA 92502-2208.

RCTC modifies the Mid County Parkway plans

In response to comments received from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statements for the proposed Mid County Parkway (MCP), the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) took action on July 8, 2009 to focus the project limits to the portion between I-215 and SR-79. This newsletter provides more information on this action as well as next steps for the project.

why is the mid county parkway project changing?

In October 2008, a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) was released evaluating the alternatives for the Mid County Parkway, a proposed 32-mile corridor designed to stretch from San Jacinto through Perris to Corona to meet regional transportation needs through 2035. The Draft EIR/EIS compiled environmental studies analyzing the effects of the alternatives on the human and natural environment. Public information open houses and public hearings were held in October and November 2008 to collect comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Public and stakeholder input is a critical part of the environmental process. Comments submitted on the Draft EIR/EIS raised environmental and community concerns regarding the portion of the project between I-15 and I-215 and funding concerns about the entire project. These comments have helped us focus the project so we can make the best use of limited transportation dollars while addressing the most immediate traffic needs. The Mid County Parkway project is now a proposed 16-mile transportation corridor to relieve local and regional traffic congestion in the San Jacinto and Perris areas and surrounding Riverside County communities.

Focusing on the eastern stretch of the Mid County Parkway between I-215 and SR-79 will allow RCTC to make the best use of limited transportation dollars while providing immediate traffic and safety benefits where they are needed most. Modifying this project will allow RCTC to move more quickly to provide improvements where the need is greatest and avoid time-consuming delays tied to environmental constraints and community challenges affecting the portion of the original project proposed between I-15 and I-215.

The modified project does not eliminate the need for a future route that will one day connect I-15 to I-215, as identified as a part of the Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP). RCTC is maintaining that long term vision but RCTC is focusing its near term project approval efforts on the vitally needed eastern 16 miles between I-215 and SR-79.

what happens next?

RCTC and its partners, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans, will revise existing studies and prepare supplemental studies to address the changes to the Mid County Parkway project. A Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS will be prepared to describe the modifications to the project, summarize potential impacts and describe measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.

The Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS will be released for a 45-day public review period. FHWA, Caltrans, and RCTC will hold additional public hearings during this review period and the public and reviewing agencies will be able to submit verbal and/or written comments in response to the modified project. Additional details on how to submit comments will be announced closer to release of the modified documents.

RCTC and its partners will review and consider all of the comments received from the public and reviewing agencies before any action on a final project is taken.

what is the schedule for the mid county parkway project?

If you have comments or questions about the Mid County Parkway, call us at 951-787-7141, email us at our website at www.midcountyparkway.org or write to: Ms. Cathy Bechtel, RCTC, P.O. Box 12008, Riverside, CA 92502-2208.