



Date: Tuesday April 5, 2022
District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROUNDBOUT PROJECT ON STATE ROUTE 25/156 TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION MONDAY APRIL 18

SAN BENITO COUNTY – Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of State Routes 25 and 156, north of Hollister, is scheduled to begin Monday April 18.

Designed to advance safety, the roundabout project will reduce the number and severity of collisions at the intersection of State Routes 25 and 156 where the current signalized intersection is experiencing a pattern of broadside and rear end collisions due to a recurrence of red light runs.

Once construction begins on Monday April 18, speed limits throughout the construction zone will be reduced to 35 mph. The speed limits will apply to all four approaches to the intersection of the two highways and is necessary to provide for the safety of travelers and construction crews. The project is expected to be completed in April 2023.

The intersection will continue to be signalized during all phases of construction. During the first several months of construction work will take place adjacent to the intersection.

Message and directional signs will be in place to assist travelers.

Please allow extra time for your commute through the area.

The Roundabout as a Safety Solution

The purpose of this roundabout project is to reduce the severity of collisions and fatalities at this intersection. Where roundabouts have been installed in California to replace existing signalized intersections, they have proven to be effective solutions to safety and capacity issues.

Since 2011, Caltrans has implemented several small projects that modified the existing signal at this intersection. These included adjusting the signal timing, installing “signal ahead” signs, installing flashing beacons, and upgrading the size of the signal heads. Although these countermeasures have had some benefit, the replacement of the

signalized intersection with a roundabout will achieve the overarching safety benefit of reducing the frequency and severity of collisions at this location.

Why is an Interchange Not Being Considered for this Intersection?

An interchange at SR25/156 is the long-range improvement planned as part of the larger SR 25 Expressway Conversion Project. The Measure G funded project to widen Highway 25 (to be completed over the coming years) will also include a permanent interchange at this intersection. The roundabout is a critical safety project designed to hasten the reduction of the number and severity of collisions at this intersection. The Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program, which funds safety projects, identified the need to address immediate safety at this location. In the interim, Caltrans is addressing this safety need until the long-range plan for an interchange can be implemented.

How Will the Roundabout Operate in a High-Speed Setting?

Although the proposed roundabout is located at the junction of two high speed rural routes, the roundabout design would emphasize speed control. Design features would control the speed that vehicles enter, navigate, and exit the roundabout. Lower vehicle speeds provide more time for entering drivers to judge, adjust speed for, and enter a gap in circulating traffic, allowing for safer merges while reducing the frequency and severity of collisions.

Large Trucks to be Accommodated

The roundabout is a two-lane design and anticipates truck volumes for the intersection today and into the future. In accommodating the sweep of truck trailer wheels, a mountable truck apron is featured around the inside of the roundabout.

Updates will continue to be provided about this project in advance of and during construction.

The contractor for this \$10.7 million construction project is Graniterock of San Jose, CA and the project is scheduled to be completed in April 2023.

Caltrans reminds motorists to move over and slow down when driving through highway work zones.

For traffic updates on other state highways in San Benito County, travelers may contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit the District 5 website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5>

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