

Caltrans to hold public workshop Thursday  
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Caltrans is hosting the second of three public workshops Thursday, May 29 on a five-mile stretch of Highway 46 East from Highway 101 to Jardine Road.

Caltrans invites the public to help identify potential solutions to some of the problems that currently exist on the highway, officials said. A final workshop will be held this summer.

“We really want the community to come have their say regarding this important five-mile section,” said Colin Jones, a Caltrans District Five spokesman.

At the meeting, Caltrans officials are expected to ask participants to identify their preferences to improving traffic flow and safety on Highway 46 East.

A first meeting held last March focused on defining the transportation challenges of connecting the travelers to, across and along Highway 46 East, according to Caltrans. At that meeting, residents showed support for improving safety and connectivity to and across Highway 46 East. They also wanted to ease weekend traffic congestion, provide a visually appealing city gateway and maintain the city’s rural and historical character, officials said.

According to Caltrans, travel demand is growing along Highway 46 East. That fact is only complicated by the highway’s proximity to the junction of Highway 101. Like Highway 46 East, Highway 101 is showing signs of heavy congestion at certain peak times, Caltrans officials said.

Travel forecasters predict that traffic near Highway 46 East/Highway 101 intersection will double over the next 25 years. Planning must consider how major improvements on Highway 46 affect operations on Highway 101, according to Caltrans. Intersections at Buena Vista Drive, Golden Hill, Union Road and Airport Road will also be factored in.

Meanwhile, the widening of Highway 46 East to four lanes is proceeding.

The first phase is a \$35 million construction project to widen a five-mile section of Highway 46 East from Airport Road east to Geneseo Road to four lanes with a median commenced earlier this Spring and should wrap up in summer 2010, according to Caltrans.

Caltrans is also concurrently working with local agencies to complete the Highway 46 East Comprehensive Corridor Study by this Fall. The study covers Highway 46 East from Highway 101 to Jardine Road. A much larger, but also related plan called the Corridor Study Management Plan covers the entire Highway 46 East route.

The comprehensive planning will incorporate community input, according to Caltrans.

The interactive workshop will be held at the Park Ballroom, 1232 Park St. from 5 to 8:15 p.m. The meeting includes an open house at 5 p.m. followed by a brief presentation and small group discussions starting at 6 p.m.

For more information, call Caltrans senior transportation planner Larry Newland at 549-3103, e-mail [Larry\\_Newland@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Larry_Newland@dot.ca.gov), or visit the Caltrans Web page at [www.46eastforthefuture.org](http://www.46eastforthefuture.org).