



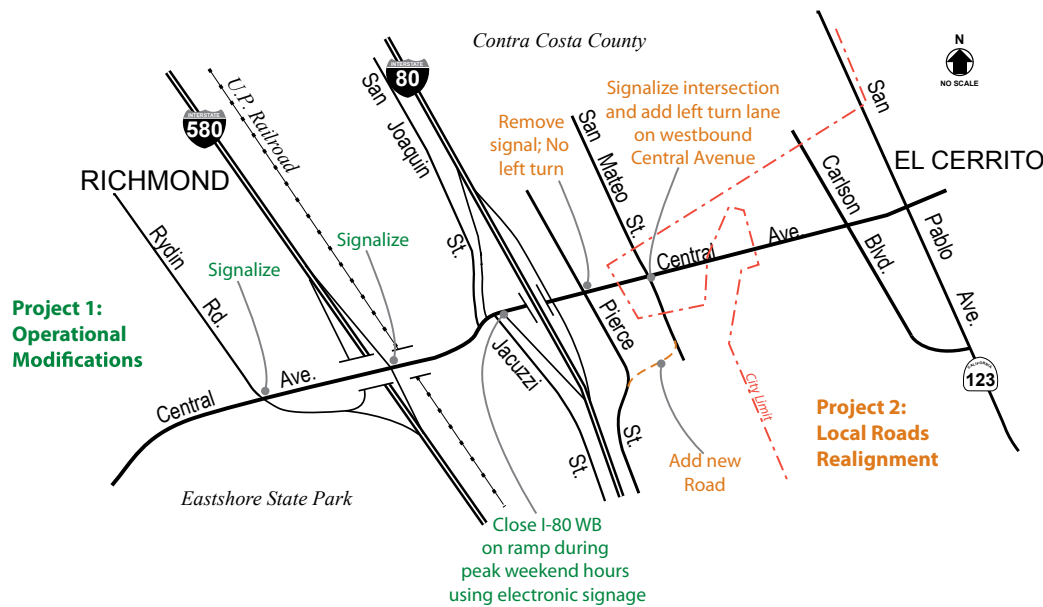
I-80/Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project

Project Purpose & Status

As the primary roadway connecting the El Cerrito Plaza BART station with Interstate 80 and 580, Central Avenue is a key commuter corridor. It also serves as an important local route, connecting commercial areas and local neighborhoods. However, the 0.1 mile (500 foot) section of Central Avenue between Jacuzzi and Pierce Streets is the site of significant congestion, especially during peak weekend commute times. The congestion results from the lack of adequate turn lanes/pockets and the close spacing of signalized intersections along Central Avenue.

Seeking to enhance mobility by relieving congestion in the project area, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, their consultant team and Caltrans evaluated several alternatives to modify the freeway interchange to improve surface flow and held public meetings to gather input from the community. However, modifying the interchange has proved unattainable due to a combination of geometric and cost constraints. Instead, the following two projects have been proposed to work in tandem to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle queuing on Central Avenue: the Operational Modifications Project and the Local Roads Realignment Project.

Project Area



Project Milestones

- Alternative Development 2007
- Public Open House October 2007
- Feasibility Study 2009
- Public Open House April 2010
- Albany Traffic & Safety
- Commission Presentation June 2010
- Operational Modifications**
- Complete Environmental Phase 2011
- Construction 2011
- Local Roads Realignment**
- Begin Environmental Phase 2010/2011
- Construction 2014/2015

Project Costs

- In response to community input gathered at the public meetings for the project, low-cost fixes based on signal and access modifications were developed.
- Operational Modifications: \$2M
- Local Roads Realignment: \$17M

Project 1: Operational Modifications

The proposed Operational Modifications Project calls for eliminating use of the westbound I-80 on-ramp during peak weekend congestion periods.

Electronic signs will be used to redirect traffic to the nearby I-580 interchange, including westbound Central Avenue traffic. Additionally, new traffic signals will be installed along Central Avenue at the I-580 ramps to handle the redirected traffic.

The project could be completed as part of the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) Project currently under development with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency and Caltrans. It is anticipated that Caltrans will lead the development of the Environmental Document for the Operational Modifications Project which is expected to be completed by early 2011.

Project 2: Local Roads Realignment

A major factor in the local roadway congestion along Central Avenue is the concentration of 11 roadway intersections and 6 traffic signals in less than 2,500 feet between Jacuzzi Street, San Joaquin Street and San Pablo Avenue. To relieve this bottleneck, the Cities of El Cerrito and Richmond will lead the proposed Local Roadway Realignment efforts, which will include the following:

- Constructing a new road to connect Pierce Street and San Mateo Street
- Changing Pierce Street and San Luis Street access at Central Avenue to "right in/right out" only
- Eliminating the traffic signal at the Pierce Street and Central Avenue intersection
- Constructing a new traffic signal, with a left-turn pocket on westbound Central Avenue, at San Mateo Street

Stakeholders



CONTRA COSTA transportation authority





I-80/Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project



ALBANY TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMISSION PRESENTATION JUNE 24, 2010



I-80/Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project

**Join us to learn more about
planned improvements!**

June 24, 2010 7 - 9 p.m.

Albany Traffic & Safety Commission
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

I-80/Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project
Public Outreach Consultant
210 Washington Avenue, Suite G
Point Richmond, CA 94801

The I-80/Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Study began in 2007 with a goal to improve overall traffic operations at the I-80/Central Avenue Interchange and along Central Avenue between Jacuzzi Street and San Pablo Avenue.

Design alternatives were prepared to examine possible improvements for the project area and were presented at an Open House in October 2007 and in April 2010. Please join us for a presentation at the City of Albany Traffic & Safety Commission meeting on June 24, 2010 to learn about the latest developments on the project.

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