CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Vasco Road Safety Improvements - Phase 2
"Shovel-Ready" Project

Description: Phase 2 of the Vasco Road Safety Improvements Project will widen the roadway to construct a concrete median barrier for approximately 1.5 miles on Vasco Road in Contra Costa County. The project is located approximately 4 to 5.5 miles north of the Alameda/Contra Costa County line. **The project is "shovel-ready" and the County is seeking $11,000,000 in federal funding to construct the project.**

Project Benefits: The project will improve safety on Vasco Road by reducing cross median head-on collisions and widening the roadway to provide more area for vehicle recovery. Vasco Road is a principal rural arterial that is heavily traveled by commuters. **Phase 2 is the final phase of the 2.5 mile project** and will complete the concrete median barrier along the roadway in the most curvy and hilly section within Contra Costa County. These long term upgrades and improvements will provide substantial safety improvements to the roadway.

Background: In the on-going effort to increase safety along Vasco Road, the Contra Costa County Public Works Department has worked with traffic and design consultants to analyze the effects of a median barrier and develop project alternatives. Through this effort, the Public Works Department has identified a safety project in a segment of Vasco Road which has experienced a number of cross median collisions.

During the 12 years from January 1996 through December 2007, there have been 352 collisions on Vasco Road, of which eight were fatal (killing 16 people) and 136 involved injuries. The highest cluster of accidents occurred in the southern portion of the road where terrain is hilly, the road is curvy, and two lanes narrow to one lane in the southbound direction. This is where the Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project is located. In the last 5 years from 2008 to 2012, a total of 86 collisions have occurred in this segment with 41 people injured and 2 people killed.

The completed project will widen the lanes and construct a concrete median barrier along 2.5 miles of Vasco Road beginning approximately three miles north of the Contra Costa/Alameda County Line. Phase 1 of the project constructed approximately 1 mile of concrete median barrier and closed a gap in a truck climbing lane/passing lane. By installing a hard median and lengthening a passing lane, more opportunities will be provided for safe passing. Phase 2 is the final phase of the project and will continue the concrete median barrier in the northerly direction through the existing 3-lane segment (approximately 1.5 miles). Phase 2 will widen the existing roadway to provide the space necessary to construct a median barrier while maintaining the current number of travel lanes. Associated signing, striping, turn pockets, retaining walls, drainage improvements, wildlife mitigation, bridge widening, and barrier end-treatments will be constructed as necessary to accommodate the installation of median barriers.

The County has benefited from President Obama's federal stimulus package. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Phase 1 of this project received full funding. Construction of Phase 1 of the project was completed in January 2012. Phase 2 is currently underfunded and the County is seeking federal funding to construct the remaining 1.5 miles of the project. **Phase 2 is estimated to cost $15.0 million.** A federal earmark, Measure

C/J and other local road funds have been set aside for the project, however additional funding has not been identified and the project is dependent on securing full funding.

The Public Works Department has completed the preliminary engineering phase, including environmental and design for Phase 2 of the project. **All environmental studies have been completed and the project environmental documents prepared according to the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act were approved in August 2009.** The plans, specifications and estimates for Phase 2 are complete and ready for advertisement. All right-of-way acquisition in conjunction with the project has been completed. Once full funding for Phase 2 is identified, the project would be ready for advertisement once permits are obtained.

Project Cost:

Phase	**Cost Estimate**
Preliminary Engineering	$2,500,000
Right of Way	$200,000
Construction	$10,800,000
Construction Engineering	$1,500,000
Total	**$15,000,000**

Project Funding:

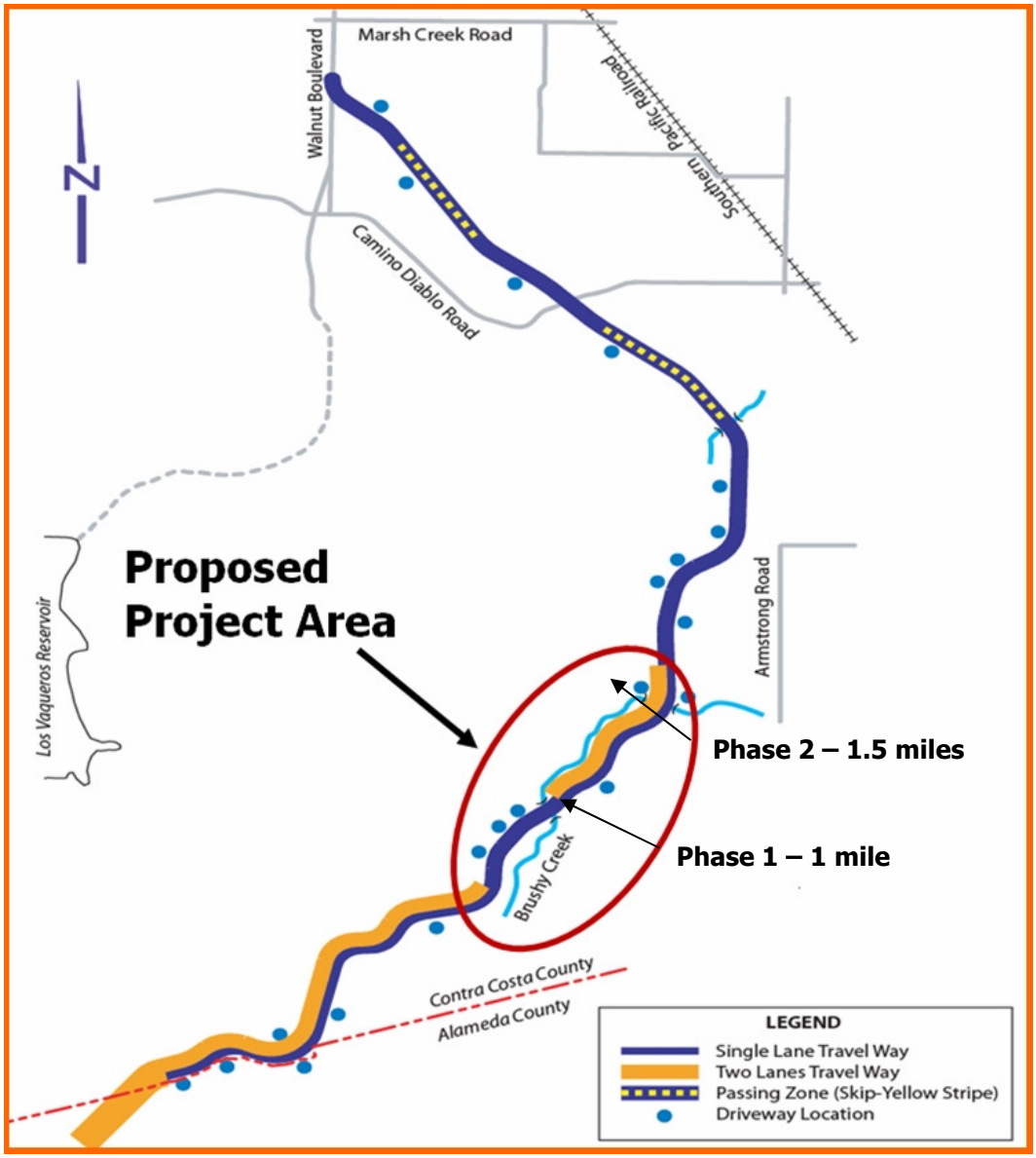
Source	**Amount**
Federal Earmark	$500,000
Measure C/J	$2,500,000
Gas Tax	$1,000,000
Unfunded	**$11,000,000**
Total	**$15,000,000**

Project Schedule:

Phase	**Timeline**
Environmental	3 - 6 months from funding availability
Plans, Specifications and Estimate	Complete
Right of Way	Complete
Construction - Start	6 - 9 months from funding availability
Construction - End	1.5 - 2 years from construction start

Project Participants: Contra Costa County, City of Brentwood, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, East Contra Costa Regional Fee and Financing Authority, State Route 4 Bypass Authority.

Project Supporters: Contra Costa County, City of Brentwood, City of Oakley, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Committee, Vasco Road Task Force, TRANSPLAN Committee, State Route 4 Bypass Authority, East Contra Costa Regional Fee and Financing Authority.


Marsh Creek Road
Walnut Boulevard
Southern Pacific Railroad
N
Camino Diablo Road
Proposed
Project Area
Los Vaqueros Reservoir
Armstrong Road
Phase 2 – 1.5 miles
Phase 1 – 1 mile
Brushy Creek
Contra Costa County
Alameda County
LEGEND
Single Lane Travel Way
Two Lanes Travel Way
Passing Zone (Skip-Yellow Stripe)
Driveway Location