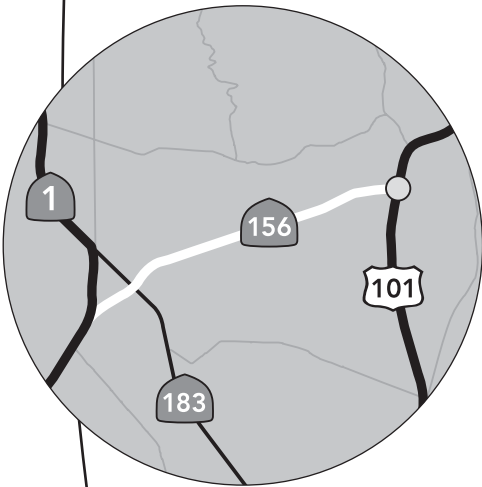




HIGHWAY 156 WIDENING AND US 101/156 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS



DESCRIPTION



Widen Highway 156 from two to four lanes between Castroville and US 101. Includes construction of a new interchange on Highway 156 near Castroville Boulevard and access improvements to the Oak Hills community as well as interchange modifications at US 101 and Highway 156.

PROJECT PURPOSE

Highway 156 is the major link connecting the San Francisco Bay area and North Monterey County to the Monterey Peninsula. With its present narrow configuration, it currently operates over capacity, with substantial delays and safety concerns, particularly during special events on the Monterey Peninsula. This congestion affects travel to and from the Peninsula as well as travel between US 101 and Highway 1 for local residents. In addition, the traffic impedes access to the Oak Hills neighborhood. This project will relieve traffic congestion on Highway 156 and at the US 101-156 interchange, while improving safety and local traffic circulation in North Monterey County.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Provides traffic congestion relief for 32,000 vehicles per weekday
- Improves access to Oak Hills and other local communities
- Improves safety at intersections
- Supports our \$2 billion per year visitor economy
- Improves movement of valuable goods to market

COST

The cost to widen Highway 156 and improve the US 101/156 interchange is estimated at \$421 million.