**CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES**
*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

**Project Scope**

The City of Paso Robles proposes the construction of planned ultimate grade-separated improvements at the intersection of Union Road and State Route 46 (SR 46) in north-central San Luis Obispo County.

State Route 46 East has State, regional, and local significance as a heavily traveled goods movement and tourism corridor. The route connects the State to the two main north-south highways - US 101 and Highway 5 and is the only central east-west goods movement corridor between Ventura and Gilroy (274 miles). The route supports $7 billion of annual goods shipments from Salinas and San Joaquin Valley, accounting for 575,000 jobs in the region. SR 46 also supports the $5 billion Central Coast tourism industry serving national and international travelers, supporting 40 percent of the local economy. The importance of this regional route has been underscored by the Newsom Administration's desire to site up to four inland ports in the San Joaquin Valley, which will impact operations at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles as they attempt to make progress in facilitating chronic issues with expediting movement of container volumes nationally. Both ports combined move over 40 percent of the nation's imports and exports. In 2017, the Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara, which was the largest fire on record at the time, and the mudslides that followed, closed off US 101 and forced trucks to reroute over SR 46 to access Interstate 5 and maintain commerce. The frequency and intensity of wildfires and climate events along the Central Coast will require the route to be completed to help maintain commerce and serve as an evacuation route for residents in the region. SR 46 also helps facilitate routine military operations conducted by Camp Roberts just to the north.

The Union Road/SR-46 intersection currently experiences an excessive delay, poor operations, and limited access to, from, along, and across SR-46 at Union Road. This is due to the prevalence of dangerous left-hand turn lanes that make crossing the freeway precarious for commercial trucks and commuters, resulting in T-bone collisions, particularly trucks that have a difficult time slowing down slope of the westbound grade along the route, making installation of a traffic light a less desired alternative.

This section of Highway 46. which traverses the population center, has an accident rate of 2 to 4.8 times higher than the State average. The State has invested nearly $700 million in the corridor to enhance goods movement and to eliminate head-on collisions on Highway 46, which continues to experience fatal collisions that exceed the State average.

The State Route 46 East/Union Road Intersection Improvements will address the current concerns regarding safety, congestion, and system reliability, which is vital to goods movement and tourism. It will provide immediate safety and mobility enhancement for trucks, bicyclists, tourists, and commuters while improving goods movement throughout. Completion of this project will allow for local traffic to be diverted off SR 46, creating additional capacity and throughput for goods movement, and allowing the City to complete its 20-mile active transportation network to compel mode-shift for residents.

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**Estimated Cost and Schedule**

The combined estimated project cost of Phases 1 and 2 is over $112 million. The City needs $58.8 million to complete the project and is providing a 30% match, resulting in a request of $41.2 million from the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program. For Alternate 1, the expected start of construction is federal fiscal year 2025-2026. Construction is expected to occur in several stages over three years.

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| Project Study Report approved | 05/01/2014 |
| End Environmental Phase (PAED) | 06/01/2023 |
| Begin Design Phase (PS&E) | 08/01/2023 |
| End Design Phase (ready to list) | 06/01/2025 |
| Begin Right of Way Phase | 07/01/2023 |
| End Right of Way Phase | 06/30/2024 |
| Begin Construction phase | 10/01/2025 |
| End Construction phase | 12/02/2028 |
| Close-out Report | 06/30/2029 |

**Benefits**

The benefits of the State Route 46 East/Union Road Intersection Improvements include the improvement of the truck turning safety; economic development of Airport Tech Zone; providing a 20-mile pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit link; protection of a central freight route corridor; maximizing the full potential of the previous $700,000,000 State investment; and provides a climate resilient trade corridor.

In addition, this project will improve access to, from, along, and across State Route 46 at/through the Union Road intersection and enhance traffic safety by substantially reducing collisions and fatalities. Congestion and delay will be reduced, and reliability and operations will be improved in the vicinity of the State Route 46 and Union Road intersection and State Route 46 and Airport Road intersection. The project will also enhance connectivity for bicycles and pedestrians across State Route 46.

The City of Paso Robles is committed to aligning with greenhouse gas reduction goals, transportation equity, and improved community impacts. It is expected that the project will not result in any increase in operational greenhouse gas emissions. The grade separation will also provide access to significant affordable housing developments to help fulfill regional demand and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Transportation equity is a central aim of the State Route 46 East/Union Road Intersection Improvements, as it will address the currently limited access and connectivity for all travel modes between the north and south sides of State Route 46. With the implementation of the project, traffic capacity, connectivity, accessibility, and safety will be significantly improved for all community members.

The State Route 46 East/Union Road Intersection Improvements mitigate the negative community impacts of accidents and fatal collisions, traffic congestion, excessive delays, and limited access and connectivity. The construction of Alternate 1 (“Overcrossing”) will result in crucial transportation improvements for the community.