

Public invited to weigh in on transit alternative

by Ruth Roberts

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East County commuters know only too well the challenges of State Route 4 and Vasco Road. But a new study being managed by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) in conjunction with local agencies, cities and counties is exploring the feasibility of a new transportation link between Brentwood and Tracy, and the public is invited to weigh in at a series of forums.

Twelve local communities plus environmental and business advocates are collaborating on the project to potentially create a high-quality transportation facility under a federal grant administered by the CCTA. Known as TriLink or State Route 239, this project could potentially improve access for those who live and work in the region and support inter-regional goods-movement operations that create local jobs.

“Right now TriLink is in a study phase that will allow us to see if a transportation facility in this corridor could be feasible,” said Andrew Hill, a TriLink associate. “We would really like the public to attend our open houses to learn about the project and let us know what they see as the key benefits and issues that need to be considered.”

The proposed areas of improvement via the Trilink study include an airport connector between Vasco Road and Byron Highway; a south link along Byron Highway from Byron Airport south to I-205 near Tracy; a north link from SR-4 south of Brentwood to Byron Highway north of the airport; an I-580 link south from SR-4 to the I-580/I-205 interchange; a transit link and new bicycle facilities within the corridor.

The public is invited to a series of meetings beginning next month. The first will be held Thursday, May 2 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Brentwood Community Center’s multi-purpose room; the second in Tracy and the third on Thursday, May 16 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the in Mountain House Community Services District, 230 S. Sterling Drive, Suite 100.

The proposed routes have not been adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC); however, Contra Costa County was awarded \$14 million in 2005 for an initial study and planning under SAFETEA-LU. Administration of the study, now known as TriLink, was transferred to the CCTA in 2012.

For further information, call Andrew Hill at 510-848-3815 or e-mail outreach@trilink239.org.

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