

APPENDIX I
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Memorandum

To: Aaron P. Burton
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Local Assistance – Environmental Support

Date: September 30, 2022

Cc: Christopher Smethurst Senior Engineer
City of Fontana
Department of Engineering

Alicia Lemke, Environmental Services Manager
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From: UltraSystems Environmental, Inc.
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File: 08-SBD-Fontana
STPL-5307(031)

Subject: **COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MALAGA BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON FOOTHILLS BOULEVARD.**

Based on the review of the Malaga Bridge Replacement Project using the California Department of Transportation Community Impact Assessment checklist, this project would likely have no significant impact on the community. A separate Community Impact Assessment study, therefore, will not be required.

The project site is located in the City of Fontana along Foothill Boulevard from Hemlock Avenue to Almeria Avenue. Existing land uses along Foothill Boulevard within the project site consist of commercial uses (automotive service businesses, retail uses, hotels, a restaurant, and a self-storage business); industrial uses; and vacant land. Project implementation would not substantially change land uses along Foothill Boulevard abutting the project site. The topography within the project site is relatively flat. Elevations onsite range from approximately 1,260 feet AMSL at the west end of the project site to 1,300 feet AMSL at the east end. There are no steep slopes or hills on the project site. The project portion of Foothill Boulevard, stretching approximately 4,700 feet from Hemlock Avenue to Almeria Avenue, is currently a four-lane roadway designated as a Modified Major Highway.

The proposed project would be consistent with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority's updated Countywide Transportation Plan, the Inland Empire Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan, and the Fontana Forward General Plan.

The project consists of widening the segment of Foothill Boulevard between Hemlock Avenue on the west and Almeria Avenue on the east. The project would consist of: (1) widening approximately 4,700 feet of Foothill Boulevard from Hemlock Avenue to Almeria Avenue from four lanes to six lanes, (2) construction of Class II bike lanes, (3) a raised landscaped median, (4) widening approximately 260 feet of Beech Avenue, south of Foothill Boulevard, and (5) replacement of the historic Malaga Bridge. This would be accomplished by:

- Replacing and relocating Malaga Bridge on the project site:
 - Demolishing and removal of the existing railroad bridge.
 - Constructing a new single-span steel truss bridge over the widened Foothill Boulevard.

- Raise the bridge to grade level to provide adequate clearance for trucks and buses underneath the bridge on Foothill Boulevard.
- Widen and reconstruct a portion of Foothill Boulevard stretching approximately 4,700 feet, to be a complete street design.
 - The addition of two new through lanes, one in each direction, for a total of six lanes at project completion.
 - The installation of a right turn lane approximately 80 feet long from westbound Foothill Boulevard onto northbound Beech Avenue; all the other turn lanes would be re-striped.
 - The installation of a raised 10-foot landscaped median spanning the length of the project.
 - The construction of five-foot wide Class II bike lanes on each side of the roadway separated from traffic lanes by a two-foot-wide striped buffer. The new lanes would extend from the existing bicycle lane that currently ends at Hemlock Avenue.
 - The construction of six-foot-wide sidewalks on each side of the roadway.
 - The installation of a landscaped parkway is to be built on each side of the roadway between the bicycle lane and the sidewalk.
 - The installation of sidewalk/bicycle lane lights on Foothill Boulevard. Light poles would be installed in the landscaped parkways.

Foothill Boulevard is classified as a major highway and designated truck route. Most of Foothill Boulevard is comprised of six through lanes with a center median. A bottleneck occurs near Malaga Bridge that could be remedied by widening Foothill Boulevard. The project site is a public roadway that is approximately 4,700 feet of Foothill Boulevard, running linearly east to west, from Hemlock Avenue to Almeria Avenue, with proposed improvements from the existing four lanes to six lanes of travel including sidewalks, bike lanes, a raised landscaped median, and a new bridge. All project access points and sight-distance setbacks would be in accordance with the City of Fontana and Caltrans design requirements. The additional lanes of travel added by the project would not increase, but decrease, hazards due to its planned design features, and traffic hazard impacts would be less than significant.

Currently, there is a changing cross-section of Foothill Boulevard as it transitions to a narrower cross-section to fit under the existing Malaga Bridge between Redwood Avenue and Citrus Avenue which historically carried a Pacific Electric interurban railway line and now is a pedestrian and bicycle bridge. The bridge has a horizontal clearance of 47 feet and a vertical clearance of 15 feet. This section of the roadway has two traffic lanes in each direction and goes below street level, forming an underpass. There are no shoulders or sidewalks in this segment forcing pedestrians and cyclists to use the vehicular lanes to pass under the bridge. The project would replace and relocate the Malaga Bridge. The Malaga Bridge would be replaced over the widened Foothill Boulevard by a single-span steel truss bridge.

The project would not result in a substantial negative impact on the community related to transportation and circulation during construction or operation. Project construction is anticipated to occur over a 12-month period. During the construction period, access would be maintained through the project area in all directions, except for a limited period during which Foothill Boulevard would be partially restricted, detoured, or temporarily closed for the placement and installation of the new bridge. This closure would be temporary and traffic would be rerouted to maintain access to local businesses. Given the short duration and temporary nature of this closure, it would not have a substantial impact on the local community. The project would increase two vehicle lanes, effectively removing the existing bottleneck, and connecting to six-lane roadway sections on either end of the project. The project would not have an adverse effect on vehicular traffic flow through the study area during long-term operation. Additionally, the addition of the two additional lanes would improve the flow of traffic along the project section of Foothill Boulevard over the long term, thereby benefitting the local community. The project would also remove a break in the

pedestrian and bike network system.

The project would also include partial acquisition of 42 parcels on both sides of Foothill Boulevard. Most acquisitions would be narrow strips of 9- to 10-foot-wide slivers along the roadway right-of-way frontage. Acquisitions on parcels on the south side of Foothill Boulevard west of Beech Avenue consisting of commercial uses, vacant land, and a water tank would range from 30 to 44 feet wide from the right-of-way frontage. Demolition would be required on two parcels next to the intersection of Beech Avenue and Foothill Boulevard. Three small accessory structures at the northwest corner of the intersection would be demolished. One commercial building at the southeast corner of the intersection would be demolished. This building is approximately 1,500 square feet in footprint. The proposed property takes and demolition would not substantially change land uses abutting the project site. Demolition of the commercial building is estimated to displace three retail trade jobs. Employment in the city of Fontana is forecast to increase from 58,073 in 2019 to 77,800 in 2045, an increase of 47% (US Census Bureau, 2022; SCAG, 2020). The economy in Fontana is forecast to generate sufficient employment such that displacement of the three retail trade jobs would not be a significant adverse impact.

Development of the proposed project would reduce street parking in portions of the Foothill Boulevard east of Malaga Bridge. Existing street parking is available along the portions of Foothill Boulevard located between Malaga Bridge and Almeria Avenue. Specifically, limited street parking is available along four parcels occupied by four different businesses including an auto repair shop, a storage facility, a landscape equipment repair shop and a small motel. The project would include acquisition of narrow strips of land along the roadway right-of-way frontage, thereby eliminating existing street parking currently available along the frontage of those businesses. All of those businesses include surface parking lots providing ample parking for the businesses. Therefore, the project would not have a significant adverse impact on the availability of parking spaces.

Over the long term, the project would improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and facility access while improving traffic flow along the project section of Foothill Boulevard. These improvements would have a positive effect on community access to pedestrian and bicycle facilities promoting alternative methods of travel. Additionally, the project would not result in the displacement or relocation of any residences or community facilities.