

Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

State Route (SR) 25 in San Benito County

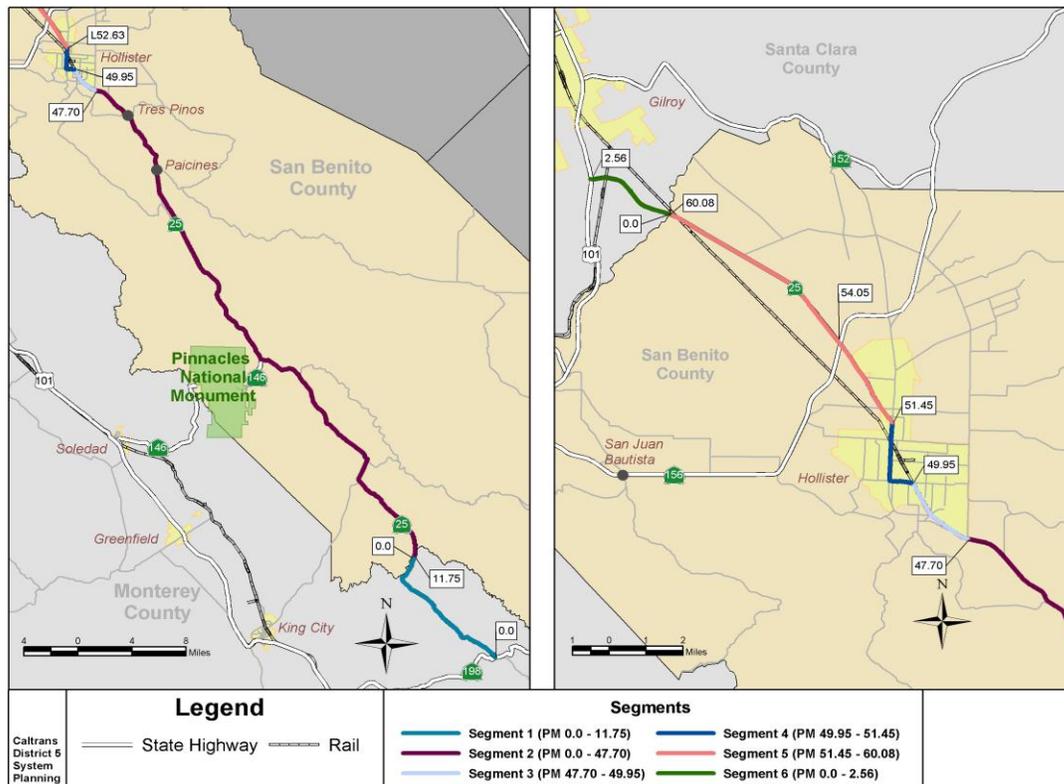


Purpose of this Transportation Planning Fact Sheet:

Transportation Planning Fact Sheets provide one comprehensive interactive summary document that captures physical, social, political, and development characteristics along State Routes and provides web links to various planning resources and documents. Fact sheets are to be used as supplemental planning documents to Caltrans Transportation Concept Reports (TCRs).

Route Description:

- Route 25 begins at the junction of Routes 198 and 25 in Monterey County. It is 74.6 miles in length and travels north-northwest through San Benito (SBt) and Santa Clara Counties, ending at the junction with Route 101 south of the city of Gilroy (Santa Clara County). Route 25 provides access to Pinnacles National Monument via Route 146 East. It also intersects Route 156 (just north of the City of Hollister)
 - Starting at the junction with Route 198/25 in Monterey County and continuing to the City of Hollister in San Benito County, SR 25 passes through hilly terrain and agricultural rangeland
 - Moving north, the nature of traffic and landscape changes as SR 25 passes through the City of Hollister and travels out to the junction with SR 101 in Santa Clara County. Flat, agricultural land surrounds Hollister and SR 25 in this area.
- The SR 25 Transportation Concept Report (TCR) divides Route 25 within Caltrans Districts 4 and 5 into six segments – see segment maps below
- Type of facility: 2 lane conventional highway (2-5 lanes in Hollister)
- Functional Classification: Urban Principal/Minor Arterial, Rural Principal/Minor Arterial
- Terrain: Flat to Rolling
- Truck Traffic: 7 to 17% peak hour (2005)



Traffic Volumes:

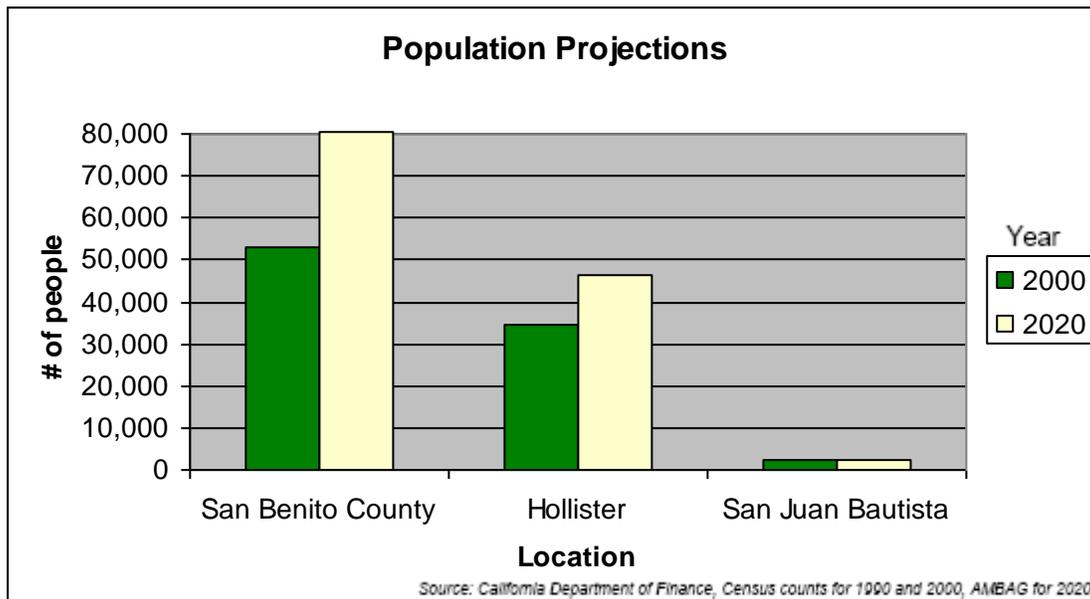
- AADT ranging 750 to 16,100 (Highway Segment Inventory - yr. 2005)
- Forecast ADT ranging 19,116 to 101,018 (yr. 2020)
23,231 to 168,173 (yr. 2030)

Route Designations:

- ❖ [Interregional Road System](#) (from SBt./Santa Clara Co. Line to SR 146)
- ❖ [Scenic Highway System Eligible](#) (from Mon/SBt. Co. Line to PM L51.45)
- ❖ [Freeway and Expressway System](#) (from PM 39.533 to Santa Clara Co. Line)
- ❖ [Bicycle Accessible](#)
- ❖ [Terminal Access Route](#) to the National Truck Network (SBt./Santa Clara Co. to Hollister)
- ❖ [Truck Advisory](#) – No trucks over 3 tons on San Benito Street (SR 25) in Hollister
 - ❖ Truck Advisory – Trucks over 30 ft. between Mon/SBt. Co. Line and Cienega Rd.(PM 38.41), near Paicines. 40 ft. truck advisory from Cienega Rd. to Nash Rd.(PM 50.573) in Hollister, and Santa Ana Rd. (PM L51.735) to Bolsa Rd. (PM 51.454) in Hollister.

County Profile:

- [San Benito County](#) consists of two incorporated cities: [Hollister](#) and [San Juan Bautista](#) (web links connect to City/County General Plan)
- SBt County: 45% growth between 1990 to 2000, from 36,697 to 53,234 (3.8% per year)
 - 51.5% projected growth between 2000 to 2020, from 53,234 to 80,653



- **35.3%** of San Benito County residents speak Spanish as their first language.
- San Benito is a unique rural county surrounded by the more urban counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey. 1990's growth in Santa Clara County created tremendous pressure for residential growth in San Benito County, where housing costs are significantly lower. This has dramatically increased demands on the regional transportation system.
- Although there are limited facilities for bicyclists in San Benito County, in 2001 the Council of San Benito County Governments adopted a [Bikeway and Master Plan](#).

Public Transportation:

[San Benito County Express](#) provides fixed route service in the city of Hollister, and intercity service in the northern portion of the county. Service operates as far north as [Gilroy](#), in [Santa Clara County](#).

Commuter Rail Service:

Commuter rail service to Santa Clara County and points north is available in Gilroy (Santa Clara Co.). A feasibility analysis of commuter rail in San Benito County was completed in 2000 and included cost estimates that were far outside of available and projected funding and low ridership projections. As of 2005, the Council of San Benito County Governments was not actively pursuing a rail project but included the project in its long-term project list.

Airport:

[Hollister Municipal Airport](#), a general aviation airport, is located just north of Hollister.

Transportation Agencies:

- [Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments](#) (AMBAG) – Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- [Council of San Benito County Governments](#) (SBtCOG) – Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA)
 - [San Benito County Rideshare](#)
 - [San Benito County Local Transportation Authority \(LTA\)](#)
 - [San Benito County Express](#)
 - [Measure A Authority \(MEA\)](#)
 - [Service Authority of Freeways and Expressways \(SAFE\)](#)
 - [Airport Land Use Commission \(ALUC\)](#)

TCR General Recommendations:

- Construct the Highway 25 Hollister Bypass and widen the Route 25 facility from south of Hollister to the Route 101 interchange to four lanes.
- Widen shoulders as funding becomes available
- Implement Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) components from the Central Coast Deployment Plan
- Reduce demand by encouraging and improving alternative modes such as transit, vanpools, ridesharing, and passenger rail (extension of Caltrain service from Gilroy to Hollister)
- Consider various land use/transportation configurations when planning for expected population and traffic growth and to encourage alternative travel modes.

State Highway Projects:

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along SR 25 in San Benito County, click the Caltrans District 5 *Status of Projects* web link:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/pdf/d5sop.pdf>

- For more information about Caltrans San Benito County highway projects, visit: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/-sbt>
- Transportation Projects Identified in the SBtCOG Regional Transportation Plan: <http://www.sanbenitocog.org/EIR4RTP/2Projectdescription.pdf>
- Local Agency STIP Projects - Caltrans Local Assistance Website: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/local/stip_index.html

Highway 25 Bypass Project:

The [Highway 25 Bypass Project](#) will construct a new six-lane at-grade urban arterial from Sunnyslope Road to East Park Street, and four-lanes from East Park Street to Bolsa Road with six signalized intersections. The project will help ease traffic congestion in Hollister, provides a convenient connection from Hollister to SR 25 North, and returns San Benito Street to the City of Hollister for economic development of downtown. The project will also include bicycle lanes.

Planning Issues:

In and near Hollister, Route 25 carries a growing mix of local, regional, and interregional traffic. While the route segment connecting Hollister and Gilroy serves agricultural and other local and regional traffic, it also is the primary roadway between an increasing job market in Santa Clara County and more affordable and available residential housing in the Hollister area. Increasing traffic, lack of alternative routes, and conflict between the slower-moving agricultural/truck traffic and faster-moving commuter traffic continue to cause escalating congestion on Route 25 between Hollister and the junction with Route 101.

➤ **Trucking:**

San Benito County experiences a higher than average amount of truck traffic. This activity, while largely confined to state highways, impacts local streets and rural roads not designed to handle large, heavy trucks. Trucking activity around and through San Juan Bautista is a particular problem, with Hollister experiencing the same problem to a lesser degree. Commodity exports from San Benito County are primarily agricultural products and quarry materials. Transport of these products generates a significant amount of truck traffic in and out of the County. Stores import nearly all items that are sold in San Benito County.

Caltrans IGR Involvement:

- Rte. 25/156, PostMile (PM) Various – Hollister Sprayfield Project/San Benito County Water Facility
- Rte. 25 PM TBA – Lowes Home Supercenter
 - PM 38.41 – Donati Winery Use Permit
 - PM 38.41 – Paicines Ranch Event Center and Meat Processing Facility
 - PM 42.63 – Low Water Crossing of Tres Pinos Bridge
 - PM 42.63 – Airline Highway Recreational Park
 - PM 48.15 – Rancho San Justo Infill Development
 - PM 48.154 – Pennington Commercial Project
 - PM 49.01 – Award Homes Subdivision
 - PM 50.02 – Notre Dame Petroleum Company Oil Drilling Exploration Effort
 - PM 51.38 – Premier Cinemas Initial Study
 - PM 52.92 – South Valley Trailers Development
 - PM 60.06 – El Rancho San Benito Development

❖ **Caltrans Contact:**

- [Mark McCumsey](#) (805) 549-3963
San Benito and Monterey Counties - Regional Planning
- [John Olejnik](#) (805) 549-4751
San Benito and Monterey Counties - Development Review