

Technical Memorandum



To: **Caltrans District 5 – David Rasmussen, Paul McClintic, Kelso Vidal**

Cc: *Monterey County Department of Public Works – Jonathan Pascua*
Wood Rodgers, Inc. – Ali Hemmati

From: *Wood Rodgers, Inc. – Nawid Nessar, PE, TE*

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Job No.: 8091.003 EA 05-0H8230

RE: SR 68 / Corral De Tierra Road (05-MON-68, PM 12.95) Intersection Operational Improvements
Traffic Operations Analysis Addendum

INTRODUCTION

A Traffic Operations Analysis memorandum (Wood Rodgers, dated 02/28/2005) was completed in support of the *Project Study Report (PSR)* for the construction of operational improvements to the intersection of State Route 68 (SR 68) and Corral de Tierra Road (05-MON-068, PM 12.95), located in the unincorporated area of Monterey County, approximately 13 miles east of the City of Monterey and 9 miles west of the City of Salinas. Caltrans approved the PSR in October 2006. The Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase has now been initiated by Monterey County. As part of the current effort, we have prepared this brief evaluation to determine if a significant change to existing traffic volumes for the study facilities has occurred subsequent to the Project Initiation phase that could require an updated traffic operations analysis for the *Project Report* and environmental document. This technical memorandum addendum presents the results of our review of recent traffic trends between year 2003-2004 (existing conditions' analysis year in the PSR) and current year 2013-2014 (existing conditions' analysis year for the PR) on State Route 68 (SR 68) at its intersection with Corral de Tierra Road.

This technical memorandum is intended to serve as a technical addendum to the Traffic Operations Analysis memorandum prepared for the PSR (Wood Rodgers, dated 02/28/2005).

RECENT TRAFFIC GROWTH TRENDS

Caltrans-published Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count data from the years 2003 through year 2013 were reviewed for the segment of SR 68 containing the study intersection with Corral de Tierra Road. *Table 8* of the PSR Traffic Operations Analysis memorandum has been expanded as *Table 1* of this addendum to include year 2004 thru year 2013 traffic volumes and the volumes for the study segment and the adjacent highway segments.

TABLE 1
SR 68 SEGMENTS NEAR STUDY INTERSECTION - RECENT TRAFFIC GROWTH TRENDS

Year	SR 68 Mainline Two-Way Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Volume		
	West of Laureles Grade	At Corral De Tierra Road Intersection	East of San Benancio Road
1992	21,300	19,800	23,500
1993	20,600	19,000	22,800
1994	20,300	18,700	22,200
1995	22,500	20,700	24,500
1996	24,700	22,700	27,000
1997	23,000	21,200	25,500
1998	23,500	21,500	26,000
1999	24,000	22,000	26,500
2000	24,000	22,000	26,500
2001	24,500	22,500	27,000
2002	25,000	22,000	26,500
2003	25,000	22,000	26,500
2004	25,500	22,500	27,000
2005	24,300	22,000	25,500
2006	22,500	23,900	26,400
2007	22,500	23,900	26,400
2008	22,500	23,900	26,400
2009	22,100	23,400	25,900
2010	22,100	23,400	25,900
2011	22,100	23,400	25,900
2012	22,200	23,000	25,000
2013	22,200	23,000	25,000

Source: Caltrans Traffic Volumes Publications

As shown in Table 1, the AADT on segment of SR 68 at the Corral de Tierra Road study intersection grew significantly (by 14%) between 1992 and 2001. However, the AADT has only slightly increased (2%) on SR 68 at Corral de Tierra Road from 2001 through 2013, possibly due to slow economic conditions and tourism decline within the study vicinity in recent years. Year 2013 also shows a 2% increase in AADT as compared to 2004, the base year for the PSR traffic analysis. However, it should be noted that the adjacent segment of SR 68 west of Laureles Grade has shown a 13% decline in AADT between years 2004 and 2013. Likewise, the adjacent highway segment east of the study intersection has shown a 7% decline in traffic volumes since 2004. Also, the AADT at the study intersection was lower in 2012-2013 than in the 2006-2011 period. Therefore, it appears unlikely that the small increase in traffic volumes on the SR 68 roadway segment containing the Corral de Tierra Road intersection since 2004 is evidence of a significant upward trend.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on this review, it is Wood Rodgers' general finding and conclusion that the 2005 PSR traffic operations analysis memorandum (dated 02/28/2005) continues to represent a reasonable and current evaluation of existing and forecast traffic operations at the study intersection both with and without the proposed SR 68/Corral de Tierra Road intersection improvement project. Furthermore, Caltrans Traffic Operations staff has acknowledged that the proposed project improvements are scoped adequately based on the traffic operations analysis completed in the PSR phase. An updated traffic operations analysis for the Project Report and environmental document is therefore not recommended to be necessary. The project Opening Day traffic volumes stated as 2008 in the 2005 memo can be taken to apply to year 2016. The traffic volumes forecast for 20 years after construction can be taken to apply to year 2036.