

**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The City of San Luis Obispo has completed the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Railroad Safety Trail Project, Taft Street to Pepper Street (ER# 91375). The IS/MND found the following environmental factors to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Recreation, and Transportation/Traffic.

**LEAD AGENCY AND PROJECT APPLICANT/SPONSOR:** The City is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The City Public Works Department will implement the proposed project.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is an approximately 1,700-linear foot (ft) trail initiating at California Boulevard and Taft Street to Pepper Street within the City limits. General Plan Designations include: Neighborhood Commercial, Office, and Medium Density Residential.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** As part of the City's Bicycle Transportation Plan and Railroad Safety Trail, this segment of the Railroad Safety Trail Project includes the construction of a 1,700-ft Class I and Class IV trail from Taft Street to Pepper Street, which will serve both pedestrians and two-way directional traffic for bicyclists. The existing Class IV trail currently ends on California Boulevard at Taft Street. The proposed Project consists of a 12-ft wide shared use path with 2-ft paved shoulders. The trail will consist of a structural section of 0.33-ft Hot Mix Asphalt (Type A) over 1-ft Class 2 aggregate base. This new segment will connect to the existing trail on California Boulevard and Taft Street as described below:

The new Class IV trail will originate on the west side of California Boulevard at Taft Street, and will continue south for 450 ft, parallel to California Boulevard. The Class IV trail will continue south onto the existing California Boulevard overcrossing structure at US 101 for an additional 135 ft. The Class IV trail will continue beyond the southwest side of the overcrossing structure for approximately 65 feet. The Class IV trail will then turn and continue southwest between the California Highway Patrol property and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way where it will become a Class I trail, and continue approximately 835 ft south of California Boulevard to Phillips Lane. The trail will then continue west and cross the UPRR tracks via a new bridge structure, approximately 100 ft in length, where the trail will connect to Pepper Street. The final portion of the Project continues south along the north side of Pepper Street for approximately 105 ft. To reduce the impact to the UPRR right-of-way, retaining walls are required to accommodate the grade change and minimize the construction footprint. The Project includes re-striping the vehicle travel lanes on California Boulevard to accommodate the trail, which would decrease the number of northbound travel lanes from two to one along the California Boulevard overcrossing structure at US 101.

Implementation of the Project would require the removal of approximately 20 trees, and the disturbance of approximately 3.15 acres, including approximately 0.76 acres of permanent disturbance, 2.16 acres of temporary-only disturbance, and 0.28 acres of unpaved construction staging area. Permanent impacts include a section of approximately 0.04 acres of California Boulevard where the vehicle travel lane and shoulder would be converted to a Class IV trail. The City will obtain permanent easement or right-of-way take from UPRR, the State, and potentially two private properties near the Phillips Lane cul-de-sac. Temporary construction easements are needed from UPRR and one private property, in addition to potential construction staging in the CHP parking lot.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE/SUBSTANCES:** The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Other sites of interest that meet "Cortese List" requirements pursuant to the California Environmental Protection Agency include: a 7-11, former Chevron Station, former Cosley's Union, and the CHP Station, known as Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) case numbers 406, 413, 3345, and 3691, respectively. These sites were once

designated as active Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup Sites, but are all now considered closed cases according to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GEOTRACKER database. These are the only such sites listed within 500 feet of any given point on the Project site.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** The 30-day public review period for the IS/MND begins on April 1 and ends on April 30, 2017. Written comments should be sent to Dan Van Beveren, Public Works, Engineering, City of San Luis Obispo Public Works, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401 or to [dvanbeveren@slocity.org](mailto:dvanbeveren@slocity.org) by 5:00 p.m., April 30, 2017. The project will be reviewed by the City Architectural Review Commission on a date to be determined, as provided in a public hearing notice.

**AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:** Copies of the IS/MND and all referenced documents are available for review at the City of San Luis Obispo Public Works, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401 and the City's website at <http://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/community-development/documents-online/environmental-review-documents>.