

July 18, 2011

Brentwood, CA – Congressman Jerry McNerney, along with Brentwood Mayor Bob Taylor, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Assemblymember Susan Bonilla, Assemblymember Joan Buchanan, Oakley Mayor Jim Frazier, and Antioch Councilmember Brian Kalinowski, held an event today to highlight the importance of the State Route 4 (SR 4) Bypass project in East Contra Costa County. The project is expected to create hundreds of jobs, reduce congestion, and improve safety for drivers in the area.

The event started with a tour through the SR 4 Bypass area and ended with remarks from officials at the intersection of the SR 4 Bypass and Sand Creek Road in Brentwood. The purpose of the event was to highlight the importance of the SR 4 Bypass project for the future economic development of East Contra Costa County and to recognize the collaborative effort between local, state, and federal officials to help secure funding for the project.

The SR 4 Bypass project recently received \$25 million in funding from the California Transportation Commission (CTC). These funds will be dedicated to converting a 2-lane, 2-way expressway to a 4-lane freeway from north of Laurel Road to south of San Jose Avenue, as well as the construction of an interchange at the intersection of the SR 4 Bypass and Sand Creek Road.

The SR 4 Bypass is an approximately 12.5 mile long transportation corridor in Eastern Contra Costa County that originates at the SR 4 Bypass/SR 160 interchange in Antioch, passes along the western edges of the cities of Oakley and Brentwood, then rejoins SR 4 in unincorporated Contra Costa County east of Brentwood. The purpose of the SR 4 Bypass is to remove the existing SR 4 from the historic downtown areas of Oakley and Brentwood.

Quotes from Elected Officials:

Congressman Jerry McNerney:

“The State Route 4 Bypass project is critical to the future of East Contra Costa County. The construction of the latest phase of the bypass project will create hundreds of jobs and the completion of the overall project will help spur economic development throughout the region, decrease traffic and make our roads safer to drive. I was glad to be a part of the effort to secure \$25 million in funding for the State Route 4 Bypass project.”

Mayor of Brentwood Bob Taylor:

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think this project was going to happen. Today is a great day to be Mayor.”

Senator Mark DeSaulnier:

“This project will help Contra Costa commuters spend less time in traffic,” said Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) Chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. “The \$25 million award recognizes that this project reduces congestion on a highly travelled corridor and improves traffic safety. I am pleased that the California Transportation Commission and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority were able to make this happen.”

Assemblywoman Susan A. Bonilla:

“The \$25 million in funding to widen the Highway 4 bypass will create jobs, increase safety, and save thousands of hours for commuters each week. Through effective management and leadership demonstrated by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, taxpayers have been saved approximately \$32 million from the Highway 4 widening and Caldecott Tunnel projects. I will continue to work with the California Transportation Commission to ensure these savings are reinvested back into the community.”

Assemblymember Joan Buchanan:

“Completing the SR 4 Bypass is critically important to reduce congestion and improve safety on this heavily traveled route. It has been an honor to support the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, under the leadership of Randy Iwasaki, and the many local leaders who have worked hard to secure this funding.”

Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho:

“This project is one more piece of the puzzle coming together to fix the transportation infrastructure in Contra Costa County. This vital funding serves our taxpayers and reflects a return of our own tax dollars to serve us locally.”

Oakley Mayor and Chair of the State Route 4 Bypass Authority Jim Frazier:

“It's been a pleasure working with the Building Trades on this. They were instrumental in getting the funding for this project.”