

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## Vasco Road Safety Improvements - Phase 2



**Description:** Phase 2 of the Vasco Road Safety Improvements Project will widen the roadway to construct a concrete median barrier for approximately 1.5 miles on Vasco Road in Contra Costa County. The project is located approximately 4.0 miles north of the Alameda/Contra Costa County line.

**Project Benefits:** The project will improve safety on Vasco Road by reducing cross median head-on collisions and widening the roadway to provide more area for vehicle recovery. Vasco Road is a principal rural arterial that is heavily traveled by commuters, and carries 22,000 vehicles per day. Phase 2 of the project is the final phase of the overall 2.5 mile project and will complete the concrete median barrier along the roadway in the most curvy and hilly section within Contra Costa County. These long term upgrades and improvements will provide substantial safety improvements to the roadway. The County has already seen an improvement in safety on Vasco Road once Phase 1 was completed and expect similar improvements with Phase 2 implementation.

**Background:** In the on-going effort to increase safety along Vasco Road, the Contra Costa County Public Works Department has worked with traffic and design consultants to analyze the effects of a median barrier and develop project alternatives. Through this effort, the Public Works Department has identified a safety project in a segment of Vasco Road which has experienced a number of cross median collisions.

During the 12 years from January 1996 through December 2007, there were 352 collisions on Vasco Road, of which eight were fatal (16 total fatalities) and 136 involved injuries. The highest cluster of collisions occurred in the southern portion of the road where terrain is hilly, the road is curvy, and two lanes narrow to one lane in the southbound direction. The Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project is located in this area. In the 5 years from 2010 to 2014, a total of 105 collisions occurred along Vasco Road with 74 people injured and one fatality.

The completed project (Phase 1 & 2) will consist of widened lanes and a concrete median barrier along 2.5 miles of Vasco Road beginning approximately three miles north of the Contra Costa/Alameda County Line. Phase 1 of the project constructed approximately one mile of concrete median barrier and closed a gap in a truck climbing lane/passing lane. By installing a hard median and lengthening a passing lane, more opportunities were provided for safe passing. Phase 2 is the final phase of the project and will continue the concrete median barrier in the northerly direction through the existing 3-lane segment (approximately 1.5 miles). Phase 2 will widen the existing roadway to provide the space necessary to construct a median barrier while maintaining the current number of travel lanes. Associated signing, striping, turn pockets, retaining walls, drainage improvements, wildlife mitigation, bridge widening, and barrier end-treatments will be constructed as necessary to accommodate the installation of median barriers.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Phase 1 of this project received full funding. Construction of Phase 1 of the project was completed in January 2012. Phase 2 is now fully funded by the recent voter approved Regional Measure 3 bridge toll funding measure. The County will work with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to secure the funding through Regional Measure 3 and move this project to construction.

The Public Works Department has completed the preliminary engineering phase, including environmental and design for Phase 2 of the project. All environmental studies have been completed and the project environmental documents prepared according to the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act were approved in August 2009. The plans, specifications and estimates for Phase 2 will need to be updated prior to advertisement. All right-of-way acquisition in conjunction with the project has been completed. The rights for the project staging area will need to be renewed. Public Works estimates the time to update the permits and renew the staging area rights would take approximately 12 months to complete.

**Project Cost:**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>
Preliminary Engineering	\$2,500,000
Right of Way	\$200,000
Construction including Construction Engineering	\$17,600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,300,000</b>

**Project Funding:**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Measure C/J	\$1,500,000
Gas Tax	\$3,800,000
RM3 funds (bridge tolls)	\$15,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,300,000</b>

**Project Schedule:**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Environmental Permits	9-12 months from funding availability
Plans, Specifications and Estimate	3-6 months from funding availability
Right of Way	3-6 months from funding availability
Construction - Start	12-15 months from funding availability
Construction - End	1.5 - 2 years from construction start

**Project Participants:** Contra Costa County, City of Brentwood, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, East Contra Costa Regional Fee and Financing Authority, State Route 4 Bypass Authority.

**Project Supporters:** Contra Costa County, City of Brentwood, City of Oakley, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Committee, Vasco Road Task Force, TRANSPAN Committee, State Route 4 Bypass Authority, East Contra Costa Regional Fee and Financing Authority.

