



SAN BENITO COUNTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Kollin Kosmicki County of San Benito Supervisor	Angela Curro County of San Benito Supervisor	Mia Casey City of Hollister Mayor	Rick Perez City of Hollister Council Member	Jackie Morris-Lopez City of San Juan Bautista Council Member	Leslie Jordan City of San Juan Bautista Mayor	Krystal Lomanto San Benito County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools
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City Council Chambers 375 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE - REGULAR MEETING AGENDA FEBRUARY 7, 2024 4:00 PM

All attendees must comply with any other rules of procedures/instructions announced by the Intergovernmental Committee and/or County Staff. The meeting will be available through Zoom and Peak Agenda for those who wish to join or require accommodations.

Members of the public may participate remotely via zoom by registering at the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qffs4xKzR5SYFY7qqlH1zw

Those participating by phone who would like to make a comment can use the “raise hand” feature by dialing “*9”. In order to receive the full zoom experience, please make sure your application is up to date.

Remote zoom participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.

Written Comments & Email Public Comment

Members of the public may submit comments via email by 5:00 PM on the Monday prior to the meeting to the Hollister City Clerk at coh.cityclerk@hollister.ca.gov.

Public Comment Guidelines

- A.** The Committee welcomes your comments.
- B.** If participating on Zoom, once you are selected you will hear that you have been unmuted: At this time, please state your first name, last name, and county you reside in for the record.

- C. Each individual speaker will be limited to a presentation total of three (3) minutes, or such other time as may be designed by the Chair.*
- D. Please keep your comments, brief, to the point, and do not repeat prior testimony, so that as many people as possible can be heard. Your cooperation is appreciated.*

If you have any questions, please contact the Hollister City Clerk, at (831) 636-4000, Ext. 1017 or email coh.cityclerk@hollister.ca.gov.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL:**

Committee Members:

- **County of San Benito: Supervisor Kosmicki and Supervisor Curro**
- **City of Hollister: Mayor Mia Casey Council Member Rick Perez**
- **City of San Juan Bautista: Council Member Jackie Morri-Lopez and Mayor Leslie Jordan**
- **County of San Benito Office of Education: Superintendent of Schools Krystal Lomanto**

Ex-Officio Committee Members:

- **San Benito High School District: Superintendent Shawn Tennenbaum**
- **Hollister School District Trustee: Jan Grist**

Staff:

- **City of San Juan Bautista: City Manager Don Reynolds**
- **County of San Benito: County Administrative Officer Ray Espinosa**
- **City of Hollister: City Manager David Mirrione**

- 4. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING AGENDA**

- 4.a. Approve Affidavit of Posting Agenda**
Cert of Posting Intergovernmental 02.07.2024

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Intergovernmental Committee welcomes you to this meeting and encourages your participation.

- ***If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record. Please address the Commission as a whole through the Chair.***

- *If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda please seek recognition from the Chairman prior to consideration of the item.*

6. REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- 6.a. **Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 6.b. **Approve Meeting Minutes for the December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting**
12.06.2023 Intergovernmental Committee Meeting Minutes
- 6.c. **Discuss options to promote San Benito County as the “Home of Pinnacles National Park”.**
- 6.d. **Receive an update regarding the no left turns on Highway 156**
- 6.e. **Committee Member Reports**
- 6.f. **Future Agenda Items**

7. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Govt. Code 54953(e)(1)(A), the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk minimum of 48 hours prior to the meeting at (831) 636-4000.

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE**

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Pursuant to Government Code Section #59454.2(a), the agenda for the San Benito County Intergovernmental Committee meeting of February 7, 2024, was posted on February 2, 2024 at the following location, freely accessible to the public:

The San Benito County website (cosb.us) under the events calendar and BOS Mtgs Peak

and

The public notice board located at the City of Hollister City Hall, 375 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA

I, Jennifer Woodworth, certify under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

**JENNIFER WOODWORTH, CITY CLERK
CITY OF HOLLISTER**



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Kollin Kosmicki County of San Benito Supervisor	Angela Curro County of San Benito Supervisor	Mia Casey City of Hollister Mayor	Rick Perez City of Hollister Council Member	Jackie Morris-Lopez City of San Juan Bautista Council Member	Leslie Jordan City of San Juan Bautista Mayor Pro Tem	Krystal Lomanto San Benito County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools
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Item Number 6.a

MEETING DATE: 02/07/2024

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Jennifer Woodworth, Hollister City Clerk

SUBJECT:

Selection of the Intergovernmental Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

AGENDA SECTION:

Regular Meeting Agenda

ATTACHMENTS:

None.



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Kollin Kosmicki County of San Benito Supervisor	Angela Curro County of San Benito Supervisor	Mia Casey City of Hollister Mayor	Rick Perez City of Hollister Council Member	Jackie Morris-Lopez City of San Juan Bautista Council Member	Leslie Jordan City of San Juan Bautista Mayor	Krystal Lomanto San Benito County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools
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Board of Supervisors Chambers 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE - REGULAR MEETING-
December 6, 2023 – 4:00 PM

All attendees must comply with any other rules of procedures/instructions announced by the Intergovernmental Committee and/or County Staff. The meeting will be available through Zoom and Peak Agenda for those who wish to join or require accommodations.

Members of the public may participate remotely via zoom at the following link <https://zoom.us/join> with the following Webinar ID and Password:

Webinar ID: 847 0225 9018
Webinar Password: 346915

Those participating by phone who would like to make a comment can use the “raise hand” feature by dialing “*9”. In order to receive the full zoom experience, please make sure your application is up to date.

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Remote Viewing:

Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting can view a livestream of the meeting online through:

1. Zoom: <https://zoom.us/join>
2. Peak Agenda Page: https://cosb.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1

Written Comments & Email Public Comment

Members of the public may submit comments via email by 5:00 PM on the Monday prior to the meeting to the Clerk of the Board at vdelgado@cosb.us

Public Comment Guidelines

A. The Commission welcomes your comments.

B. If participating on Zoom, once you are selected you will hear that you have been unmuted: At this time, please state your first name, last name, and county you reside in for the record.

C. Each individual speaker will be limited to a presentation total of three (3) minutes, or such other time as may be designed by the Chair.

D. Please keep your comments, brief, to the point, and do not repeat prior testimony, so that as many people as possible can be heard. Your cooperation is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk of the Board Vanessa Delgado, at (831) 636-4000, Ext. 13 or email VDelgado@cosb.us

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chair Kosmicki.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Curro.

3. ROLL CALL:

Committee Members:

County of San Benito: Supervisor Kosmicki and Supervisor Curro

City of Hollister: Mayor Mia Casey Council Member Rick Perez

City of San Juan Bautista: Council Member Jackie Morri-Lopez and Mayor Leslie Jordan

County of San Benito Office of Education: Superintendent of Schools Krystal Lomanto

Ex-Officio Committee Members:

San Benito High School District: Superintendent Shawn Tennenbaum

Hollister School District Trustee: Jan Grist

Staff:

City of San Juan Bautista: City Manager Don Reynolds

County of San Benito: County Administrative Officer Ray Espinosa

City of Hollister: City Manager David Mirrione

Committee Members:

County of San Benito:

Present: Supervisor Kosmicki and Supervisor Curro

Absent: None

City of Hollister:

Present Council Member Rick Perez

Absent: Mayor Mia Casey

City of San Juan Bautista:

Present: Mayor Leslie Jordan and Council Member Jackie Morris-Lopez

Absent: None

County of San Benito Office of Education:

Present: None

Absent: Superintendent of Schools Krystal Lomanto

Ex-Officio Committee Members:

San Benito High School District:

Present: None

Absent: Superintendent Shawn Tennenbaum

Hollister School District Trustee:

Present: Jan Grist

Absent: None

Staff:

County of San Benito: County Administrative Officer Ray Espinosa - Absent

City of Hollister: Assistant City Manager David Mirrione - Absent

City of San Juan Bautista: City Manager Don Reynolds - Present

4. Approve Affidavit of Posting Agenda

4.a Approve Affidavit of Posting Agenda

Moved by Angela Curro; seconded by Jackie Morris-Lopez to approve Affidavit of Posting Agenda.

Motion : 5- 0

Voting For: Kollin Kosmicki, Angela Curro, Rick Perez, Jackie Morris-Lopez, Leslie Jordan

Voting Against: None

5. Public Comment

The Intergovernmental Committee welcomes you to this meeting and encourages your participation.

- If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record. Please address the Commission as a whole through the Chair

- If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda please seek recognition from the Chairman prior to consideration of the item.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Jordan arrived to the meeting at 4:04 PM.

6. Regular Meeting Agenda

6.a Approve Meeting Minutes for the November 1, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Moved by Rick Perez; seconded by Jackie Morris-Lopez to approve minutes per staff recommendation.

Motion : 5- 0

Voting For: Kollin Kosmicki, Angela Curro, Rick Perez, Jackie Morris-Lopez, Leslie Jordan

Voting Against: None

6.b Receive a presentation from California Highway Patrol and San Benito County Sheriff's Office regarding enforcement, statistics on traffic violations, and assigned officers within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of San Benito County.

Sheriff Eric Taylor provided information on traffic enforcement done by the Sheriff's Office, the responsibility of the California Highway Patrol on county roads, assistance to the City of San Juan Bautista for citations and traffic enforcement.

CHP Lieutenant Phil Cooper provided information on the location of the department's coverage spanning from South Santa Clara County and all of San Benito County, 2022 and 2023 citations, crashes, and arrests.

City of Hollister Chief Carlos Reynoso provided information on the department's responsibilities, enforcement in the City of Hollister, the MOU between the department and Highway Patrol to patrol the outskirts of the City of Hollister, 2022 and 2023 citations, misdemeanors, traffic collisions, and DUIs, traffic enforcement on Hillcrest and Sunnyslope Rd.

There were no public comments.

There was discussion among the committee and staff regarding the need for enforcement with the increase in accidents, school resources for the students, involving police departments when new schools are created for traffic enforcement, traffic issues around schools, the amount of CHP officers in San Benito County, speeding cameras, remote ways of monitoring schools, Flock Cameras and systems, live crime centers, request to CHP for additional enforcement on highways and backroads, adding cameras in the remote areas, the elimination of left turns on county roads on Hwy 156, and update information on the mapping applications to include new restrictions.

This was a presentation only.

6.c Receive a presentation from the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz on the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) and discuss future funding efforts to support existing and new programs within San Benito County.

Seniors Council Executive Director Clay Kempf provided a presentation on the Master Plan for Aging Local Playbook, resources to assist in taking action in your community, seven plays to build communities for all ages, a solutions summit, and five bold goals.

There were no public comments.

There was discussion among the commission and Mr. Kempf regarding the senior center, the waitlist for the home delivery meals from Meals on Wheels, a social senior center, and the elimination of the Alzheimer's resource center.

This was a presentation only.

6.d Committee Member Reports

There were none.

6.e Future Agenda Items

Supervisor Kosmicki requested having an item to promote San Benito County as the home of Pinnacles National Park.

Mayor Jordan requested an update on the no-left turns on Hwy 156.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM.

In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Govt. Code 54953(e)(1)(A), the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board minimum of 48 hours prior to the meeting at (831) 636-4000.



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Kollin Kosmicki County of San Benito Supervisor	Angela Curro County of San Benito Supervisor	Mia Casey City of Hollister Mayor	Rick Perez City of Hollister Council Member	Jackie Morris-Lopez City of San Juan Bautista Council Member	Leslie Jordan City of San Juan Bautista Mayor Pro Tem	Krystal Lomanto San Benito County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools
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Item Number 6.c

MEETING DATE: 02/07/2024

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Jennifer Woodworth, Hollister City Clerk

SUBJECT:

Discuss options to promote San Benito County as the “Home of Pinnacles National Park”.

The San Benito County Board of Supervisors will consider formally branding San Benito County as “Home of Pinnacles National Park.” This is intended to draw attention to the county and give it a clear, marketable identity for tourism purposes. The concept would be to explore contracting with a professional marketing firm to develop and execute a branding campaign while exploring other means used by other communities to designate such communities with similar identities. The goal with such a branding campaign would be to draw attention to San Benito County’s tourist attractions, including Pinnacles but also other attractions such as Historic San Juan Bautista, Hollister Hills, Fremont Peak, the wineries and more. Pinnacles would act as the “anchor” to draw tourism consumers to all local attractions.

AGENDA SECTION:

Regular Meeting Agenda

ATTACHMENTS:

None.



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Kollin Kosmicki County of San Benito Supervisor	Angela Curro County of San Benito Supervisor	Mia Casey City of Hollister Mayor	Rick Perez City of Hollister Council Member	Jackie Morris-Lopez City of San Juan Bautista Council Member	Leslie Jordan City of San Juan Bautista Mayor Pro Tem	Krystal Lomanto San Benito County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools
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Item Number 6.d

MEETING DATE: 02/07/2024

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Jennifer Woodworth, Hollister City Clerk

SUBJECT:

Receive an update regarding the no left turns on Highway 156

AGENDA SECTION:

Regular Meeting Agenda

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 2023-72 – A Resolution of the City of San Juan Bautista Requesting Improved Safety Measures on State Highway 156 During Construction (Adopted November 14, 2023)
2. Resolution 2023-153 – A Resolution of the County Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito, California, Requesting Improved Safety Measures on State Highway 156 During State Route (SR) Improvement Project Construction (Adopted December 5, 2023)
3. Letter to State of California Department of Transportation Re: No left turn onto Highway 156 Lucy Lane, Bixby Road, and Flint Road, and enforcement (Dated December 6, 2023)
4. Caltrans Press Release Re: New Signage as Part of Highway 156 Improvement Project (dated January 23, 2024)

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-72**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN
BAUTISTA REQUESTING IMPROVED SAFETY MEASURES ON STATE
HIGHWAY 156 DURING CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, The State of California Department of Transportation (aka “Caltrans”) has embarked on an amazing multi-year transformation of Highway 156 from two to four lanes between Hollister and San Juan Bautista that is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous serious accidents on Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista since construction began; and

WHEREAS, over the past month, the San Benito Council of Governments (“COG”) has responded to requests from the Intergovernmental Committee representing the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and the County Board of Supervisors, to enact increased safety measures during the Caltrans’ Highway 156 construction project; and

WHEREAS, at its October 11, 2023 special meeting on the safety of State Highway 156 was convened by COG and it included Caltrans District 5, the California Highway Patrol (“CHP”) and County Public Works where Caltrans answered the County question of “what do we need to do?” Caltrans described the need for a specific request from the County to make safety changes that include limiting the ability of drivers to make a left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound during the afternoon hours; and

WHEREAS, at the November 1, 2023 Intergovernmental Committee meeting, the City was asked to support the County’s request to Caltrans for increased safety measures to include no left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound, during the hours of 3PM to 7PM, and that request be combined with a request to the CHP to increase enforcement of the new proposed safety changes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees with both COG and the Intergovernmental Committee, and supports this collaborative effort to improve safety on State Highway 156, and agrees with the need for increased awareness and cooperation to make Highway 156 safer, as soon as possible.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SAN JUAN BAUTISTA CITY
COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The City hereby requests from Caltrans the implementation of increased safety measures including but not limited to prohibiting left turns from County roads onto eastbound Caltrans Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3PM to 7PM during construction as soon as possible.

2. The City hereby requests that San Benito County modify traffic flows and signage

on County roads leading to State Highway 156 in collaboration with Caltrans to implement increased safety measures including prohibiting left turns from County roads onto Caltrans eastbound Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3PM to 7PM during construction as soon as possible.

3. The City hereby request that the CHP increase traffic enforcement and support the safety measures requested above, as they are implemented to protect the safety of drivers using State Highway 156.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of San Juan Bautista at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of November 2023 by the following vote:

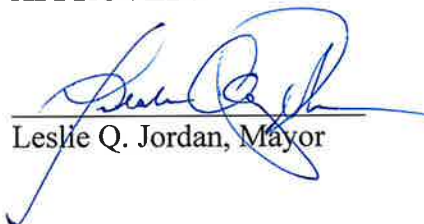
AYES: Councilmembers: Freels, Freeman, Morris-Lopez, Sabathia, and Mayor Jordan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED:


Leslie Q. Jordan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Elizabeth Soto, Deputy City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-153**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BENITO, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING IMPROVED SAFETY MEASURES ON STATE HIGHWAY 156 DURING STATE ROUTE (SR) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) manages over 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes, provides inter-city rail services, permits more than 400 public-use airports and special-use hospital heliports, and works with local agencies. Caltrans carries out its mission with six primary programs: Aeronautics, Highway Transportation, Mass Transportation, Transportation Planning, Administration, and the Equipment Service Center; and

WHEREAS, San Benito Route 156, an Interregional Strategic Corridor, provides a critical east-west link between the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista that connect to the Central Coast, Bay Area, and the Central Valley. A key goods movement corridor that carries freight throughout California and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has embarked on an amazing multi-year transformation of Highway 156 from two to four lanes between Hollister and San Juan Bautista that is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous serious accidents on Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista since construction began; and

WHEREAS, the San Benito Council of Governments ("COG") has responded to requests from the Intergovernmental Committee representing the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and the County Board of Supervisors to enact increased safety measures during the Caltrans' Highway 156 construction project; and

WHEREAS, at its October 11, 2023, special meeting on the safety of State Highway 156 was convened by COG and included Caltrans District 5, the California Highway Patrol ("CHP"), and County Public Works where Caltrans answered the County question of "what do we need to do?" Caltrans described the need for a specific request from the County to make safety changes that include limiting the ability of drivers to make left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound during the afternoon hours; and

WHEREAS, at the November 1, 2023, Intergovernmental Committee meeting, the County requested support on the County's request to Caltrans for increased safety measures to include no left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound during the hours of 3 PM to 7 PM, and that request be combined with a request to the CHP to increase enforcement of the new proposed safety changes; and

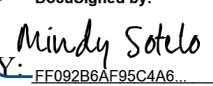
WHEREAS, the City Council of San Juan Bautista on November 14, 2023, passed resolution 2023-72, agreeing with both COG and the Intergovernmental Committee to support this collaborative effort to improve safety on State Highway 156, and agrees with the need for increased awareness and cooperation to make Highway 156 safer, as soon as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County of San Benito Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. Request Caltrans to implement increased safety measures including but not limited to prohibiting left turns from County roads onto eastbound Caltrans Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3 PM to 7 PM during construction as soon as possible.
2. Requests that San Benito County Resource Management Agency modify traffic flows and signage on County roads leading to State Highway 156 in collaboration with Caltrans to implement increased safety measures, including prohibiting left turns from County roads onto Caltrans eastbound Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3 PM to 7 PM during construction as soon as possible.
3. Requests CHP increase traffic enforcement and support the safety measures requested above, as they are implemented to protect the safety of drivers using State Highway 156.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito, State of California, on this 5th day of December 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: 5 SUPERVISORS Sotelo, Curro, Zanger, Kosmicki, Gonzales
NOES: 0 SUPERVISORS None
ABSTAIN: 0 SUPERVISORS None
ABSENT: 0 SUPERVISORS None

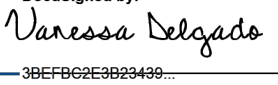
DocuSigned by:

BY: FF092B6AF95C4A6...
Mindy Sotelo,
Chair, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

DocuSigned by:

4E435F008CDB438...
David Prentice, County Counsel

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

3BEFBC2E3B23439...
Vanessa Delgado, Clerk of the Board

SAN BENITO INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

481 FOURTH STREET, HOLLISTER, CA 95023 (831) 636-4000 FAX: (831) 636-4010  WWW.COSB.US

Kollin Kosmicki	Angela Curro	Mia Casey	Rick Perez	Jackie Morris-Lopez	Leslie Jordan	Krystal Lomanto
County of San Benito Board Supervisor	County of San Benito Board Supervisor	City of Hollister Mayor	City of Hollister Council Member	City of San Juan Bautista Council Member	City of San Juan Bautista Mayor	San Benito County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools

December 6, 2023

State of California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: No left turn onto Highway 156 Lucy Lane, Bixby Road, and Flint Road, and enforcement

Dear State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans):

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Committee, composed of the City of Hollister, the City of San Juan Bautista, the County of San Benito, the San Benito County Office of Education, the Hollister School District, and the San Benito High School District strongly urges the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the need to increase safety measures, increase traffic enforcement, and modify traffic flows and signage on County Roads leading onto State Highway 101 Rocks Rd and Caltrans Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista.

Caltrans embarked on a multi-year transformation on Highway 156 by constructing five new miles of 4-lane at-grade expressway from the Alameda in San Juan Bautista to Business Route 156 near Hollister to improve traffic flow, safety and reduce the commuting time; it is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025. Since the inception of construction, there has been an increase in accidents and longer commuting hours. Local commuters have used alternate back roads (i.e., Lucy Lane, Bixby Road, and Flint Road) to cut through traffic, making it exceptionally dangerous for those already on Highway 156 and leading to more accidents. Public complaints and consensus to address the cut-through traffic left turn operation and safety concerns are crucial for the duration of the project to be completed.

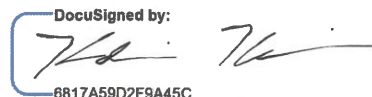
The committee has held two substantive meetings on increasing safety measures and traffic enforcement on Caltrans Highway 156, has advocated their requests to the San Benito Council of Governments (COG), and invited the San Benito Sheriff's Office and California Highway Patrol to its regular meeting on December 6, 2023, to understand further the jurisdictions enforced, support the safety measures, and address solutions. Committee members continue to advocate improving safety measures on State Highway 156 during construction.

The Intergovernmental Committee, at its regular meeting on November 1, 2023, committee unanimously requested support this collaborative effort to improve safety on State Highway 156, and the City of San Juan Bautista recently adopted a Resolution on Tuesday, November 14th to increase awareness and cooperation to make Highway 156 safer. The County of San Benito Board of Supervisors also adopted a separate Resolution No. 2023-153 on Tuesday, December 5th, to authorize Caltrans to initiate and implement a plan for no left turns'

operations during high traffic peak hours from 3 PM to 7 PM and add signage at Lucy Lane, Bixby Road, and Flint Road onto Highway 156.

On behalf of the Committee, we appreciate your consideration and look forward to working collaboratively to keep our community safe. We welcome the opportunity to discuss solutions with your team. When we work together, we can accomplish more.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

6817A59D2F9A45C...

Kollin Kosmicki

Chair of Intergovernmental Committee

CC: CHP

Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 2023-72 – City of San Juan Bautista – Improve Safety Measures Hwy 156
2. Resolution No. 2023-153 – County of San Benito - Improve Safety Measures Hwy 156

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-72**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA REQUESTING IMPROVED SAFETY MEASURES ON STATE HIGHWAY 156 DURING CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, The State of California Department of Transportation (aka "Caltrans") has embarked on an amazing multi-year transformation of Highway 156 from two to four lanes between Hollister and San Juan Bautista that is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous serious accidents on Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista since construction began; and

WHEREAS, over the past month, the San Benito Council of Governments ("COG") has responded to requests from the Intergovernmental Committee representing the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and the County Board of Supervisors, to enact increased safety measures during the Caltrans' Highway 156 construction project; and

WHEREAS, at its October 11, 2023 special meeting on the safety of State Highway 156 was convened by COG and it included Caltrans District 5, the California Highway Patrol ("CHP") and County Public Works where Caltrans answered the County question of "what do we need to do?" Caltrans described the need for a specific request from the County to make safety changes that include limiting the ability of drivers to make a left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound during the afternoon hours; and

WHEREAS, at the November 1, 2023 Intergovernmental Committee meeting, the City was asked to support the County's request to Caltrans for increased safety measures to include no left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound, during the hours of 3PM to 7PM, and that request be combined with a request to the CHP to increase enforcement of the new proposed safety changes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees with both COG and the Intergovernmental Committee, and supports this collaborative effort to improve safety on State Highway 156, and agrees with the need for increased awareness and cooperation to make Highway 156 safer, as soon as possible.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SAN JUAN BAUTISTA CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City hereby requests from Caltrans the implementation of increased safety measures including but not limited to prohibiting left turns from County roads onto eastbound Caltrans Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3PM to 7PM during construction as soon as possible.

2. The City hereby requests that San Benito County modify traffic flows and signage

on County roads leading to State Highway 156 in collaboration with Caltrans to implement increased safety measures including prohibiting left turns from County roads onto Caltrans eastbound Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3PM to 7PM during construction as soon as possible.

3. The City hereby request that the CHP increase traffic enforcement and support the safety measures requested above, as they are implemented to protect the safety of drivers using State Highway 156.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of San Juan Bautista at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of November 2023 by the following vote:

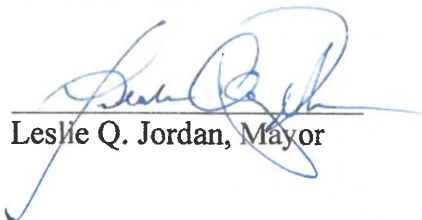
AYES: Councilmembers: Freels, Freeman, Morris-Lopez, Sabathia, and Mayor Jordan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

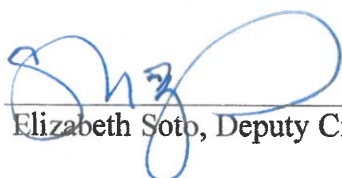
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED:



Leslie Q. Jordan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elizabeth Soto, Deputy City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-153**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BENITO, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING IMPROVED SAFETY MEASURES ON STATE HIGHWAY 156 DURING STATE ROUTE (SR) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) manages over 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes, provides inter-city rail services, permits more than 400 public-use airports and special-use hospital heliports, and works with local agencies. Caltrans carries out its mission with six primary programs: Aeronautics, Highway Transportation, Mass Transportation, Transportation Planning, Administration, and the Equipment Service Center; and

WHEREAS, San Benito Route 156, an Interregional Strategic Corridor, provides a critical east-west link between the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista that connect to the Central Coast, Bay Area, and the Central Valley. A key goods movement corridor that carries freight throughout California and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has embarked on an amazing multi-year transformation of Highway 156 from two to four lanes between Hollister and San Juan Bautista that is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous serious accidents on Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista since construction began; and

WHEREAS, the San Benito Council of Governments ("COG") has responded to requests from the Intergovernmental Committee representing the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and the County Board of Supervisors to enact increased safety measures during the Caltrans' Highway 156 construction project; and

WHEREAS, at its October 11, 2023, special meeting on the safety of State Highway 156 was convened by COG and included Caltrans District 5, the California Highway Patrol ("CHP"), and County Public Works where Caltrans answered the County question of "what do we need to do?" Caltrans described the need for a specific request from the County to make safety changes that include limiting the ability of drivers to make left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound during the afternoon hours; and

WHEREAS, at the November 1, 2023, Intergovernmental Committee meeting, the County requested support on the County's request to Caltrans for increased safety measures to include no left turns from County roads onto Highway 156 eastbound during the hours of 3 PM to 7 PM, and that request be combined with a request to the CHP to increase enforcement of the new proposed safety changes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of San Juan Bautista on November 14, 2023, passed resolution 2023-72, agreeing with both COG and the Intergovernmental Committee to support this collaborative effort to improve safety on State Highway 156, and agrees with the need for increased awareness and cooperation to make Highway 156 safer, as soon as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County of San Benito Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. Request Caltrans to implement increased safety measures including but not limited to prohibiting left turns from County roads onto eastbound Caltrans Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3 PM to 7 PM during construction as soon as possible.
2. Requests that San Benito County Resource Management Agency modify traffic flows and signage on County roads leading to State Highway 156 in collaboration with Caltrans to implement increased safety measures, including prohibiting left turns from County roads onto Caltrans eastbound Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista from 3 PM to 7 PM during construction as soon as possible.
3. Requests CHP increase traffic enforcement and support the safety measures requested above, as they are implemented to protect the safety of drivers using State Highway 156.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito, State of California, on this 5th day of December 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: 5 SUPERVISORS Sotelo, Curro, Zanger, Kosmicki, Gonzales

NOES: 0 SUPERVISORS None

ABSTAIN: 0 SUPERVISORS None

ABSENT: 0 SUPERVISORS None

DocuSigned by:

Mindy Sotelo

BY: FF092B6AF95C4A6

Mindy Sotelo,
Chair, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

DocuSigned by:

David Prentice

1E135F008CBB438...

David Prentice, County Counsel

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Vanessa Delgado

3BEF8C2E3B23439...

Vanessa Delgado, Clerk of the Board

State of California • Department of Transportation



News Release

Date: Tuesday January 23, 2024
District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties
Contact: Jim Shivers
Phone: (805) 549-3237

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SIGNAGE AS PART OF HIGHWAY 156 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SAN BENITO COUNTY – Construction on the Highway 156 Corridor Improvement Project continues this week with the installation of signage to restrict left turn maneuvers from Lucy Brown Lane, Bixby Road and Flint Road onto State Route 156.

These left turn maneuvers will be prohibited beginning Monday, January 29 and will be in effect Monday through Friday from 3 pm to 7 pm.

These no left turn signs are being installed to prevent travelers from these three locations from making left turns across oncoming traffic. This additional signage will enhance operational efficiency for all travelers in the corridor.

This traffic control measure was adopted via resolution by the Council of San Benito County Governments and the San Benito County Board of Supervisors.

About the Project

The San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project will construct a four-lane expressway immediately south of the existing Hwy. 156 alignment. This 5.2-mile project extends from San Juan Bautista at The Alameda and continues to just east of Hwy. 156 Business Route (4th St.) in Hollister.

During construction, access will be closed from Hwy. 156 to Mission Vineyard Rd. in San Juan Bautista. Also, travelers will not be able to access San Juan Hollister Rd. from Union Rd.

Updates for the San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project can be found on the Transportation Updates page of the Council of San Benito County Governments at: <http://sanbenitocog.org/transportation-updates/>

The contractor for this project is Teichert Construction of Sacramento, CA. This project

(more)

is expected to conclude in the Fall of 2025.

Road information and updates can also be found on Caltrans District 5 Social Media platforms: Twitter at: [@CaltransD5](#), Facebook at: [Caltrans Central Coast \(District 5\)](#) and Instagram at: [Caltrans_D5](#).

**All highway workers deserve to get home safely too.
Drive slowly and carefully in all work zones.**

| [#BeWorkZoneAlert](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) |

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