

Key Facts

OPEN HOUSE MEETING for Veterans Blvd/SR-99 Interchange

October 2, 2007 6:30PM - 8:30 PM

1. Veterans Boulevard has been planned since the City of Fresno 1984 General Plan. Veterans Boulevard will be a six-lane superarterial (limited access major street) connecting from Herndon Avenue west of Polk Avenue to Grantland Avenue south of Gettysburg Avenue. Grantland Avenue will continue as a six-lane road south to Shields and as a four-lane road south of Shields.
2. The Fresno City Council and Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted an Official Plan Line in 1996 that firmly established the alignment and required right-of-way for Veterans Boulevard, then known as the Herndon-Grantland Diagonal.
3. Limited sections of Veterans Boulevard have already been constructed by developers.
4. Veterans Boulevard is one of fourteen Urban Tier 1 projects to be funded over the next 20 years in the Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan that was approved by the voters in Fresno County. The Expenditure Plan includes \$60 million of Measure C, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds and developer impact fees for the Veterans Boulevard project.
5. The City of Fresno has requested the \$60 million for the Veterans Boulevard project be expended from Barstow to Bullard Avenues (the touch-down points for the roadway going up and over the freeway and railroad), including the freeway interchange, a connection to Golden State Boulevard and a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.
6. The Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) and Fresno County Council of Governments (COG) are considering whether to utilize any bonding to accelerate schedules for some of the Measure C Tier 1 Urban projects or to utilize a "pay as you go" program. Under a "pay as you go" there would be \$9 million available this year for the Tier 1 Urban program. Priorities have not been set for which project(s) will be constructed first.
7. The City of Fresno has funded a Project Study Report (PSR) for a freeway interchange at Veterans Boulevard and SR-99. The PSR is the first step in the Caltrans process for the planning, development and construction of a new interchange on the State highway system. Caltrans has been very cooperative with the City in the PSR process.
8. The next steps for the proposed freeway interchange would be receiving a Measure C funding allocation from FCTA, going through the environmental process, public hearings, selection of an alternative through the Project Approval Report, acquiring right-of-way, preparing the final design and construction bid documents, utility relocation, bidding and constructing the project.
9. The City of Fresno has a Major Street Impact Fee program for new development. The fees paid by new development will pay for the six travel lanes and median curbs for the rest of Veterans Boulevard (i.e. from Bullard north to Herndon, and from Barstow south to Gettysburg). Developers will be required to construct segments of Veterans Boulevard as they further develop the area. The City could at some point choose to step in using collected impact fee dollars for any missing links.
10. Veterans Boulevard will ultimately have signalized intersections with Herndon, Hayes, Bullard/Bryan Diagonal, Golden State Blvd connector road, Barstow/Bryan Diagonal, Shaw Avenue and Gettysburg Avenue.