

SR-78/SR-111 Expressway (Brawley Bypass)

■ **PROJECT FEATURES**

- Relieve congestion on State Route 78 (SR-78) and State Route 111 (SR-111) in the City of Brawley by reducing the volume of truck traffic
- Provide continuity in the "NAFTA Net" - a series of transportation projects designed to accommodate increased trade due to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
- Facilitate international and interstate movement of goods
- Reduce travel time through Brawley

■ **THE PROJECT**

The project would construct an eight mile four-lane divided expressway from State Route 86 north of the City of Brawley to 1.5 miles south of the eastern junction of State Route 111 and State Route 78 in Imperial County.

Major features of the project include structures at the New River and Union Pacific Railroad crossings, an interchange with SR-111, and accommodation for the future Brawley Airport expansion. Access to the expressway would be at about 1 mile intervals at signalized and unsignalized intersections.

■ **BACKGROUND**

Caltrans completed a Project Study Report examining alternatives for an expressway bypass of the City of Brawley in March 1993. The study was requested by the California Transportation Commission and the City of Brawley.

The Brawley Bypass would provide continuity between SR-111 and SR-86, which extend from the US/Mexico border to Riverside County.

The Draft Environmental Document was approved on May 11, 2001. A Public Hearing was held on July 18, 2001. The Fredricks Variation 2 (interchange) Alternative was identified as the preferred alternative on November 19, 2001. The Project Report and the Final Environmental Document were approved on February 26, 2003.

■ **STATUS**

Construction will be completed in three stages.

- Stage 1 - Construction began in February 2004 and is expected to be completed in Summer 2005.
- Stage 2 - Construction is scheduled for late 2006, to complete by mid-2008.
- Stage 3 - Begin construction 2007, complete concurrently with Stage 2.

■ **FUNDING**

The estimated cost for the project is \$108 million (2004 dollars). Currently, \$90 million is programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Plan.

■ **CONTACT**

For more information on this project, please contact Project Manager Mark Phelan at (619) 688-6803.

STATE ROUTE 78/111 BRAWLEY BYPASS

