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Highway 25 Bypass Grand Opening Delayed

The Council of San Benito County Governments has announced that the opening of the Highway 25 Bypass project will be delayed until the construction contractor repairs a portion of new pavement. The Council of Governments and its contractor discovered cracks in the pavement along the shoulder of the new roadway late this summer.

The Council of Governments, contractor, design engineers, City and County staff and Caltrans have been working together to reach a solution as quickly as possible. The cracking is a result of a contractor error when the base material was inadequately placed underneath the shoulder of the roadway.

The Council of Governments is very concerned about this delay and is working to resolve the issue immediately. The construction contractor will be responsible for fixing the problem but the schedule for opening the entire new roadway will likely be delayed. The contractor has until November 24, 2008 to complete the project. A financial penalty is assessed if the contractor has not completed the job by this date.

“It is important to remember that construction should be done right, not rushed. The residents and taxpayers of San Benito County deserve a new roadway that is properly constructed.” said Brad Pike, Chairman of the Council of Governments.

The biggest unknown is the fall and winter weather. A temperature of 50 degrees is needed to pave and stripe. In order to pave and stripe the shoulders, the contractor must dig up and replace the shoulder foundation. This work will take several weeks to complete. However, final paving and striping activities will be concurrent where possible.

“Although the grand opening date is unknown, we are working with the contractor to finish up the areas of Sunnyslope Road and Airline Highway and San Felipe Road and Highway 25, as we are aware they have the most impact on the public.” said Council of Governments Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer.

The Council of Governments and Caltrans are working together to prepare the new roadway for transfer to Caltrans. The transfer will likely take place 18 months after the project is open to the public. The Council of Governments and Caltrans have coordinated on this project every step of the way.

Other work continues this month with construction being done at Sunnyslope Road and Airline Highway and San Felipe Road and Highway 25.

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