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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Public Encouraged to Participate in the 3rd Community Meeting for
Oregon Expressway Improvements**

Proposed Conceptual Alternative Plans and Traffic Analysis Report will be Presented

SAN JOSE, CALIF. -- County residents are encouraged to continue to weigh in on planned improvements for Oregon Expressway. On March 4, 2009, from 7-9 p.m., the Proposed Conceptual Alternative Plans and the Traffic Analysis Report will be presented for public consideration at a 3rd community meeting at the Cafetorium of Jordan Middle School. Over three thousand notification cards are being sent out to the residents in the vicinity of Oregon Expressway.

"The goal of the Oregon Expressway Improvement Project is to facilitate and enhance travel for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists," said Supervisor Liz Kniss, President of the Board of Supervisor.

"Public participation is a crucial element in the process to achieve this goal. We look forward to receiving more input from the residents."

Oregon Expressway connects US-101 to El Camino Real and I-280, serving as a major commute route to Stanford Research Park. It is also a primary emergency response route, and a limited truck route from US-101 to midtown Palo Alto. The need for the improvements is outlined in the 2003 Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study, which was approved by the County Board of Supervisors and endorsed by the Palo Alto City Council.

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The \$3.5 million improvement plan, funded by a federal grant and local matching funds, will cover the area from West Bayshore to Bryant Street. The Proposed Conceptual Alternative Plans reflect input and comments received from the public at the public meetings about minimizing the impact on side streets while maximizing safety benefits for all modes of traffic. For example, on Middlefield Road, the modified new conceptual alternatives preserve or replace impacted landscaping and trees.

The Traffic Analysis Report includes traffic collision and traffic volume summaries, intersection level of service, corridor-wide traffic analysis and benefit-savings calculations.

Community outreach for the project began in Spring 2008 and included a number of public meetings. . As a result, the Proposed Conceptual Alternatives that address community concerns for the nine intersections between West Bayshore Road and Bryant Street have been developed. "We thank those who have participated to-date and have assisted in the development of the project," said Michael Murdter, Director of Roads and Airports Department. "I encourage more residents to participate in the public meeting on March 4."

To date, no final plan for physical improvements has been selected. The County plans to present the preferred alternatives to the City of Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission in early 2009, and seek formal City support for the project and any proposed side street improvements. Ultimately, the selected project alternatives will be included in a construction plan and submitted to the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

The Proposed Conceptual Alternative Plans and Traffic Analysis Report are posted online at www.oregonexpressway.info . Interested parties are welcome to communicate with project staff via email at comments@oregonexpressway.info

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