



Project: U.S. Highway 101 Cap Project – Phase 2

Location: City of Ventura, Ventura County

Timeframe: 2011 - 2012

Project Partners: City of Ventura

Project Services

- Land Use Planning
- Public Outreach
- Design Guidelines
- Financial Analysis



This report develops a vision for downtown Ventura, centering on a regional initiative to provide multimodal access to the area and reconnect Ventura Downtown neighborhoods back to the Pacific Ocean waterfront by building a cap over U.S. Highway 101.

Goals

- Stimulate economic development and improve traffic safety and connections through the downtown street network.
- Promote sustainable mixed-use redevelopment adjacent to the cap.
- Promote improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide increased open space and improved access to the waterfront.
- Enhance continuity of bicycle and pedestrian transportation.
- Improve multi-modal accessibility and circulation.

The City of Ventura is developing a plan to make the downtown area more livable as well as economically and environmentally sustainable. U.S. Highway 101 is a six-lane limited access highway that runs below-grade through downtown Ventura and obstructs scenic views, limits access to the waterfront and the vibrant commerce of the downtown area, as well as negatively impacts the visual character of the city. Furthermore, the freeway's off-ramps inhibit easy connections to regional entertainment venues and local retail. Overall this division has a detrimental impact on the growth of the downtown area. Ventura's Freeway Cap project provides an innovative solution to the problems posed by the highway bisecting the community. This second phase of Compass funding developed design alternatives.

Results

- Derived three capping design alternatives ranging from a one-block to a three-block cap. The three-block cap, called “Ventura Beach + Town”, was selected as the preferred capping design alternative.
- Performed a design charrette and an open house event to gain community input.
- Determined Next Steps:
 - Negotiate air rights.
 - Engage the stakeholders to discuss governance issues and responsibilities.
 - Establish public-private partnership(s).
 - Identify and pursue federal and state funding sources.
 - Identify and implement project-based sources.
 - Keep the stakeholders and a wide spectrum of civic leaders actively engaged throughout the project.
 - Provide planning-level analysis of grading, structural, transportation, and key environmental issues.