



SR-57 Northbound Widening Project

Glossary of Terms

Following is a list of construction terms commonly used in project communication materials for the SR-57 Northbound Widening Project. We hope you find these helpful.

Abutment: describes a structure located at the ends of a bridge, where the bridge slab adjoins the approaching roadway. This structure is basically a retaining wall designed to carry the loading conditions present in bridge structures.

Auxiliary Lane: the portion of the roadway for weaving, speed change, truck climbing or for other purposes supplementary to through traffic movement.

Columns: a vertical structural element that transmits, through compression, the weight of the structure above to other structural elements below. Columns are frequently used to support beams or arches on which the upper parts of walls or ceilings rest.

Concrete Piles: typically made with steel reinforcing and pre-stressing tendons to obtain the tensile strength required, to survive handling and driving, and to provide sufficient bending resistance.

Egress: the exit points on a controlled access highway.

Falsework: consists of temporary structures used in construction to support spanning or arched structures to hold the component in place until its construction is sufficiently advanced to support itself. Falsework also includes temporary support structures for formwork used to mould concrete to form a desired shape and scaffolding to give workers access to the structure being constructed.

Footing: the supporting base or groundwork of a structure. It could also be known as the footer of a wall or a monument.

Frontage Road: a local street or road located on the side of the main roadway which permits access to residences and businesses.

Grade Separation: a crossing of two highways, or a highway and a railroad, at different levels. The bridge that spans highways or railroad tracks (as in an overpass) is a grade separation structure.

Guard Rail: a steel rail with two corrugations at the shoulder edge of a highway, usually in front of roadside hazards.

Ingress: the entrance points on a highway.

K-rail: a modular concrete barrier that separates lanes of traffic and keeps workers safe in the project area.

Median: the portion of a divided highway separating the traveled ways for traffic in opposite directions.

Pile Driving: the process of driving concrete or steel piles, which can be more than 100 feet long, into the ground. These piles provide support for structures such as bridges and other transportation related infrastructure.

Railroad Spur: an extended rail track that runs parallel to the railroad mainline.

Retaining Wall: a structure that holds back a slope and prevents erosion.

Shoring: a general term used to describe the process of supporting a structure to prevent collapse so that construction can proceed. During excavation, shoring systems provide safety for workers in a trench and speed excavation.

Shoulder: a reserved area by the verge of a road or motorway. Generally it is kept clear of all traffic. In the event of an emergency or breakdown, a motorist can pull into the shoulder to get out of the flow of traffic and obtain an element of safety.

Sound Wall: usually an exterior brick or concrete structure designed to reduce roadway noise.

TMP: an acronym for Traffic Management Plan, which lays out a set of strategies for managing the work and work zone impacts of a project.

Traffic Lane Numbers: the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assigns each lane a number from left to right (excluding carpool lane, begin numbering at first lane after). The far left passing lane is the number one lane. Lanes on the road read like a book. Start from the center divider and count out toward the on- and off-ramps.

