

State of California  
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
Department of Transportation

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PROJECT BUSINESS MATTERS  
Extension Request – Project Allocation  
Resolution: Waiver 02-24  
CTC Meeting: June 13, 2002  
  
Reference No: 2.8a.(4)

*Original Signed By:*  
ROBERT L. GARCIA  
Chief Financial Officer  
June 3, 2002

**TIME EXTENSION REQUEST**  
**CTC RESOLUTION G-01-21, STIP GUIDELINES**  
**SECTION 65 – TIMELY USE OF FUNDS**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**WAIVER 02-24**

**ISSUE**

Resolution G-01-21, *STIP Guidelines*, adopted by the California Transportation Commission (Commission) on July 12, 2001, stipulates that funds programmed for Caltrans construction costs are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year (FY) identified in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Pursuant to Section 66 (Delivery Deadline Extension) of Resolution G-01-21, the Department requests to extend the deadline for construction allocation until October 31, 2003, for the Route 101 project in Santa Barbara County (PPNO 0481) programmed with \$836,000 of Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds in FY 2002-03 and \$2,264,000 of grandfathered RIP funds in FY 2001-02. The extension is needed to allow additional time to obtain the approval of Coastal Development Permit from the County of Santa Barbara.

**SUMMARY**

This project proposes to construct an auxiliary lane on northbound Route 101 and a Class I bikeway adjacent to Route 101, between Evans Avenue and Sheffield Drive interchanges, near the communities of Summerland and Montecito in Santa Barbara County. The project will improve traffic safety and operations by correcting deficiencies in weaving distances between the northbound on and off ramps, and provide an alternative route adjacent to Highway 101 for bicyclists. The existing designated bike route is the Highway 101 shoulder, or an alternate route around Ortega Hill Road with steep grades, reduced shoulders, limited sight distance and sharp curves.

Highway 101 through this area and the entire project limits are located within the Coastal Zone. In July of 2000, the County Board of Supervisors adopted design criteria (Highway 101 Corridor Design Guidelines) and a separate Design Review Team (DRT) to review and recommend approval of all projects along the Route 101 corridor from the City of Carpinteria to the City of Santa Barbara. Aesthetics and landscape are the primary focus of the DRT, and in past projects have been the last and final efforts in obtaining the Coastal Development Permit from the County.

From April of 2001 through April of 2002, the Department worked extensively with the County and the DRT to develop an acceptable project. Several architectural features including decorative fencing, enhanced landscape, and decorative lighting have been incorporated into the planned project. In April of 2002, the DRT recommended approval of the project to the County and commended the Department for its cooperation and for an exemplary and beautiful project.

The County has informed the Department, however, that a Coastal Development Permit would not be granted due to perceived visual impacts and instructed the Department to perform an initial study/environmental assessment (IS/EA), with the possibility of upgrading the environmental document to a Negative Declaration. The original environmental certification of a Categorical Exemption was previously completed on February 4, 2000.

The Department requests a time extension of sixteen (16) months for \$2,264,000 in RIP funds programmed for construction in FY 2001-02 and four (4) months for \$836,000 in RIP funds programmed for construction in FY 2002-03, to complete the additional studies and documentation required by the County in order to secure the Coastal Development Permit. The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments supports this 16-month allocation extension request.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends approval of this project allocation extension request.