

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 22-23, 2003

Reference No.: 2.3b
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Karla Sutliff
Chief
Division of Design

Ref: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 08-RIV-15 AT GALENA STREET, KP 77.6/82.8 (PM 48.2/51.4), BETWEEN LIMONITE AVENUE AND SR-60, RESOLUTION S-717.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Resolution S-717 and maps of the location State Highway Route 15. The County of Riverside has requested approval of a new public road connection to Route 15. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto. It is recommended that the Commission approve Resolution S-717 in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as an interchange to Route 15 in Riverside County, near Mira Loma, at Kilometer Post 77.6/82.8 (48.8/51.4).

A Project Report was approved on March 25, 2002. The Negative Declaration for CEQA was approved April 26, 2002. A Finding of No Significant Impact for NEPA was approved May 3, 2002.

Recommended by: BRENT FELKER, Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND

Existing State Highway Route 15 is part of the Interstate Highway System, I-15, and was adopted into the state system as a freeway by the California Highway Commission on June 26, 1962. The need for additional access to I-15 between Limonite Avenue and SR-60 has been recognized and discussed by Riverside County and the Department since the early 1980's. A Project Study Report (PSR), prepared and approved in September 1996, considered a range of possible alternatives, including a No Build Alternative, within the context of the Riverside County Comprehensive General Plan and the San Bernardino County General Plan buildout land uses for the area.

A Project Report was approved on March 25, 2002 and a Negative Declaration was approved as the CEQA document on April 26, 2002. These reports document the need and purpose in light of planned and approved urbanization of the area on both sides of the route, in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. To address future mobility and to achieve acceptable levels of traffic operation within the study area, Riverside County proposes this new connection. The proposed project is intended to relieve regional congestion at nearby State Route 60 and I-15 interchanges, to accommodate the planned growth in the Jurupa Community area and the I-15 corridor, and to distribute traffic in a more balanced manner by providing additional access at a more reasonable interval. The current distance between the State Route 60/I-15 freeway-to-freeway interchange and the Limonite Avenue interchange is more than five kilometers (three miles). This proposed interchange is approximately 2.2 kilometers (1.4 miles) south of the freeway-to-freeway interchange. Though this spacing is non-standard, an exception to the mandatory 3 kilometer (1.8 mile) spacing has been approved by the Department.

The proposed project is estimated to cost \$27.46 million and is proposed to be funded by Riverside County Measure A funds, Federal STP discretionary funds, Mira Loma Road and Bridge Benefit funds, and TEA-21 Demo funds. A separate resolution for consideration of New Public Road Connection appears under the Environmental Matters for this Commission Meeting.

PROPOSAL

The project proposes to construct a new local interchange, a partial cloverleaf (L-9), on State Route 15 (I-15) in Riverside County between Limonite Avenue and State Route 60. The project will include construction of the overcrossing structure as a six-lane (three in each direction) facility with Galena Street tapering to four lanes in each direction. Subsequent widening of Galena Street is to be accomplished by local agencies under separate environmental document by 2006.

COORDINATION

A Project Report was approved on March 25, 2002. The Negative Declaration, CEQA was approved April 26, 2002, and a Finding of No Significant Impact, NEPA, was approved May 3, 2002. A resolution for consideration of New Public Road Connection is considered under Environmental Matters on this agenda. A Superseding Freeway Agreement between the Department and Riverside County has been prepared for execution pending approval of this resolution. A Cooperative Agreement between the Department and the County is currently being negotiated. A Fact Sheet for Exception to Non-Standard Interchange Spacing was approved by the Department in July of 2000.

CONCLUSION

The new public road connection is needed to mitigate the impacts of planned and approved development, to balance traffic distribution, and to provide additional access to the freeway system. This new connection is in the best interest of the public.

Attachments: Resolution S-717, Area of Interest Map, Exhibit A