State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 21-22, 2003

Reference No.: 2.3b.(2)
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Karla Sutliff
Chief
Division of Design

Ref: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 08-RIV-215 AT MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD, KP 65.8 (PM 40.9), RESOLUTION S-719**

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Resolution S-719 and maps of the location on State Highway Route 215. The City of Riverside has requested approval of a new public road connection to Route 215. 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-719 in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as an interchange to Route 215 in the City of Riverside, at Kilometer Post 65.8, (PM 40.9).

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) was approved for compliance with CEQA and NEPA in 2001. The Project Report was approved following review and consideration of the recommendations contained in the FEIS/FEIR.

Recommended by: _____
BRENT FELKER, Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND

Existing State Highway Route 215 is part of the Interstate Highway System, I-215, and was adopted into the state system as a freeway by the California Highway Commission on May 16, 1951. The proposed Martin Luther King Blvd interchange is approximately 4.75 km (3 miles) northwest of the SR-60/215 freeway to freeway interchange and approximately 3.7 km (2.25 miles) southeast of the SR-60/215/91 freeway to freeway interchange. This 8 kilometer (5.25 mile) section of 215 in downtown Riverside is subject to severe congestion. In March of 2002, a Project Report was approved for a major project to address congestion in the area by adding HOV lanes, revising many nonstandard features, providing better freeway to freeway connectivity, and by improving or relocating freeway access points for provide better local and mainline operations on State Routes 60, 91, and I-215. The proposed Martin Luther King Interchange addition is a key element in this project.

Though the proposed interchange has been approved with nonstandard spacing to University Avenue interchange, at one kilometer instead of the standard 1.5 kilometer, the approved Environmental Document notes that removal and replacement of the El Cerrito (a.k.a. University Knolls) interchange with the new Martin Luther King interchange will provide for better local circulation, especially to UC Riverside, better main line operations and weaving, as well as overall better operational characteristics between the new Martin Luther King Blvd. interchange and the 60/215 freeway to freeway interchange.

The proposed project is estimated to cost $294 million with funding from Flexible Congestion Relief funds under the HOV Operational Improvements (HB5) Program, the New Facilities: New Connections and Cross-Traffic Improvements (HE-11) Program, and the Operational Improvements (HB4N) Program. The Martin Luther King Interchange, structure-only cost, is estimated at $2.75 million.

PROPOSAL

The project proposes, among other major operational improvements, to remove the existing El Cerrito interchange and to construct a new local interchange, on Interstate Route 215 in the City of Riverside at Martin Luther King Blvd.

COORDINATION

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) was approved for compliance with CEQA and NEPA in 2001. The Project Report was approved following review and consideration of the recommendations contained in the FEIS/FEIR. A Fact Sheet for Exception to Design Standards for all existing and proposed nonstandard features, including interchange spacing, has been approved by the Department. A Superseding Freeway Agreement between the Department and the City of Riverside has been executed reflecting the proposed change in connections.

CONCLUSION

The new public road connection is needed 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-719, Area of Interest Map, Exhibit A

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing A New Public Road Connection
08-RIV-215 At Martin Luther King Blvd., KP 65.8 (PM 40.9)

Resolution S-719

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside has requested approval of a new public road connection at Martin Luther King Blvd on State Route 215 (I-215); and

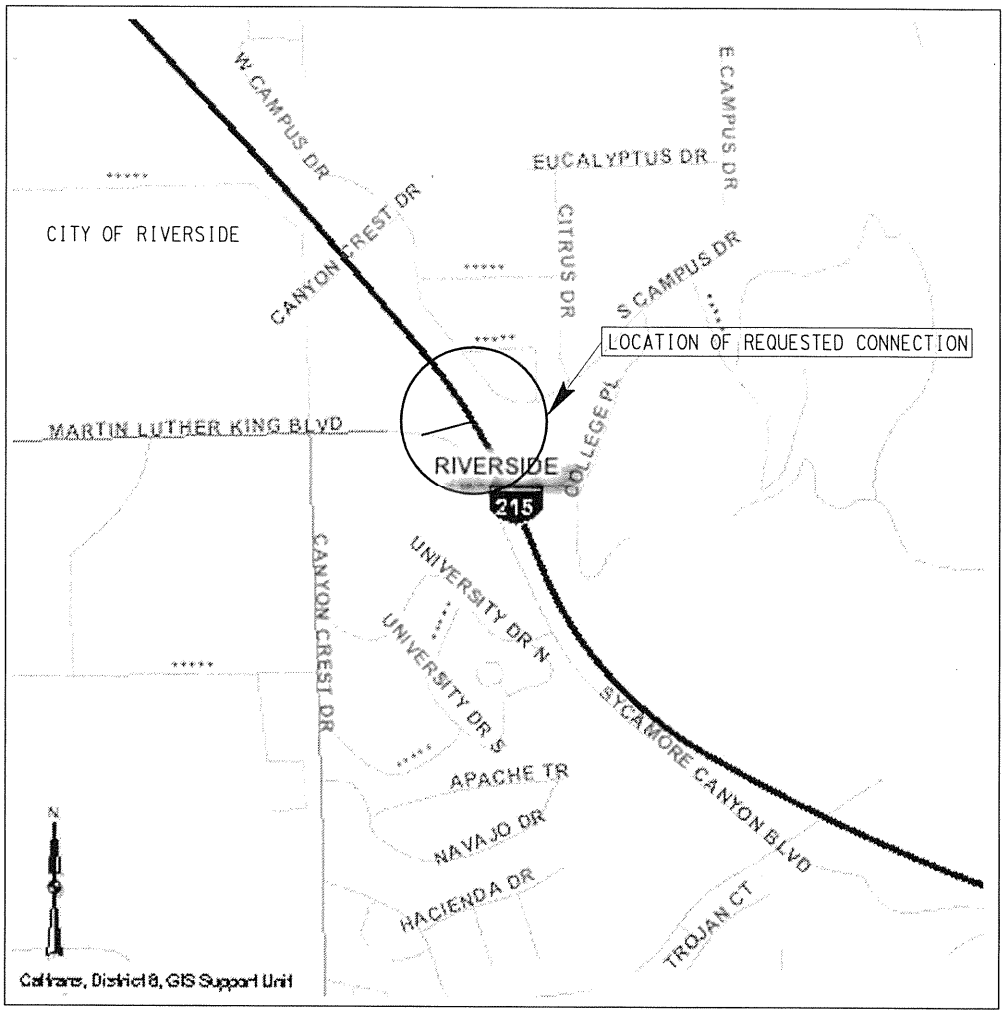
WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has approved a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on September 27, 2001, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and,

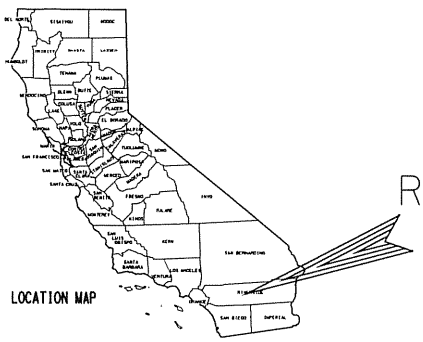
WHEREAS, the project will not have major impacts on the environment, and mitigation has been proposed and approved for impacts considered less than major; and

WHEREAS, the Project Report was approved1, consistent with the alternative recommended in the FEIS, including the construction of the proposed connection and the closing of the El Cerrito (a.k.a. University Knolls) interchange, and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside and the State have entered into a superseding Freeway Agreement reflecting the proposed new connection and closing of the El Cerrito interchange, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby authorize a new public road connection to State Route 215, a.k.a. Interstate Highway 215, at Martin Luther King Blvd, KP 65.9 (PM 41.0) in the City of Riverside.



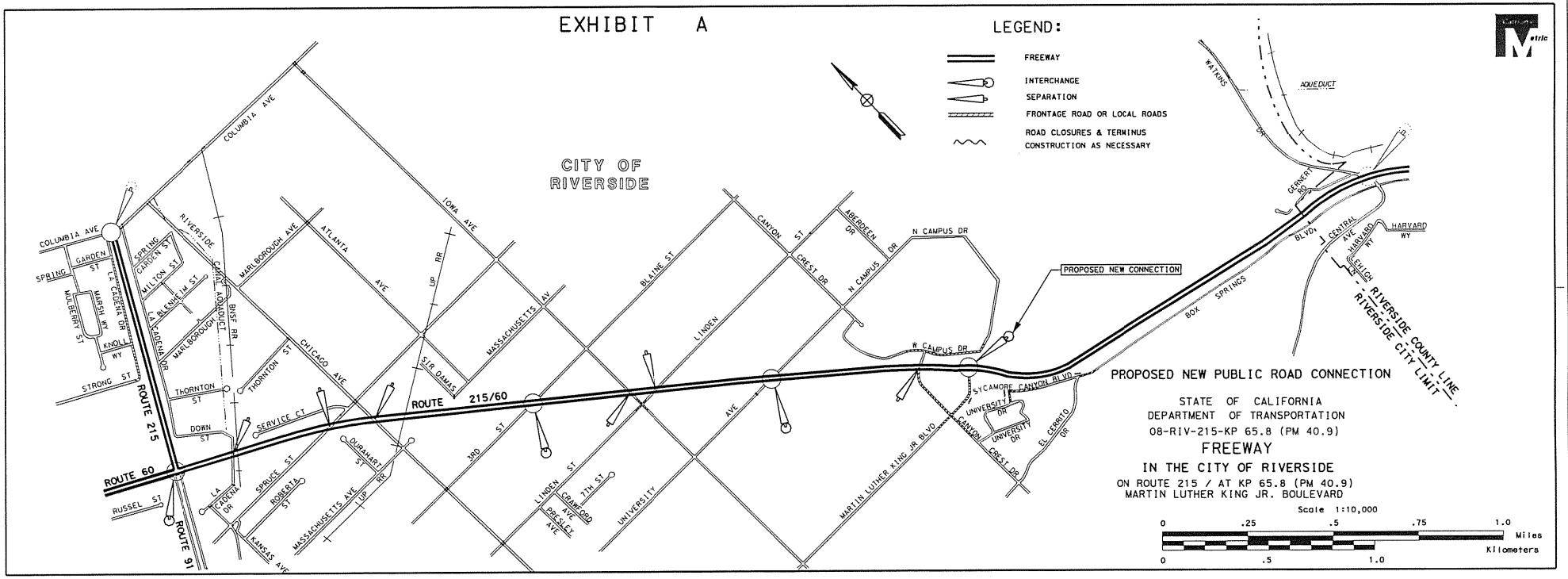


RIVERSIDE COUNTY

08-RIV-215

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION AREA OF INTEREST MAP

EXHIBIT A


LEGEND:
FREEWAY
INTERCHANGE
SEPARATION
FRONTAGE ROAD OR LOCAL ROADS
ROAD CLOSURES & TERMINUS
CONSTRUCTION AS NECESSARY
CITY OF RIVERSIDE
PROPOSED NEW CONNECTION
ROUTE 215/60
ROUTE 60
ROUTE 215
ROUTE 91
COLUMBIA AVE
SPRING
GARDEN ST
MULBERRY ST
MARSH WY
LA CADENA DR
KNOLL WY
STRONG ST
RIVERSIDE
CANAL AQUEDUCT
BNSF RR
MARLBOROUGH AVE
ATLANTA AVE
IOWA AVE
UP RR
MASSACHUSETTS AV
CHICAGO AVE
THORNTON ST
DOWN ST
SERVICE CT
SIR DAMAS
BLAINE ST
LINDEN
CANYON CREST DR
ABERDEEN DR
N CAMPUS DR
W CAMPUS DR
SYCAMORE CANYON BLVD
UNIVERSITY DR
EL CERRITO DR
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD
UNIVERSITY AVE
3RD ST
7TH ST
CRAWFORD AVE
PRESLEY AVE
DURAHART ST
SPRUCE ST
ROBERTA ST
KANSAS AVE
RUSSEL ST
WATKINS DR
AQUEDUCT
GERNERT RD
BOX SPRINGS BLVD
CENTRAL AVE
HARVARD WY
LEHIGH LN
RIVERSIDE COUNTY LINE
RIVERSIDE CITY LIMIT
PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
08-RIV-215-KP 65.8 (PM 40.9)
FREEWAY
IN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE
ON ROUTE 215 / AT KP 65.8 (PM 40.9)
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BOULEVARD
Scale 1:10,000
0 .25 .5 .75 1.0 Miles
0 .5 1.0 Kilometers