

# Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: September 10, 2007

From: John Barna  
Executive Director  
ACTION

File No: Agenda Item 83  
Ref. Agenda 2.2c.(4)

Ref: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING – STATE ROUTE 99 IN MERCED COUNTY – CAMPUS PARKWAY, MISSION AVENUE INTERCHANGE TO YOSEMITE AVENUE (TCRP #106) (FINAL EIR) RESOLUTION E-07-20**

**Issue:** Should the Commission approve the County of Merced's Final Environmental Impact Report for its proposed construction of a new four-lane expressway on the east side of the City of Merced that begins at Route 99/Mission Avenue interchange and ends at Yosemite Avenue?

**Recommendation:** Commission staff recommends that the Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-07-20. As a responsible agency, the Commission must approve this Resolution prior to allocating funds for capital purposes on the proposed project.

The proposed project is the construction of a 4.5-mile four-lane expressway starting at the Route 99 Mission Avenue Interchange and proceeding north and east to Yosemite Avenue. The project would provide added capacity on the northern and eastern side of the City of Merced to serve future growth in the area. Future growth includes the expansion of housing, business, the first phase of the University of California's Merced campus, and additional university housing and infrastructure.

The proposed project is not fully funded. Total estimated cost of the project is about \$ 77 million. The proposed project is fully funded through the right-of-way phase. Construction is estimated to cost \$ \$57.5 million, with \$23.8 million in committed funds from the Traffic Congestion Relief Program and the City of Merced, and \$33.7 million in proposed funding. The \$33.7 million is expected to come from potential funding sources such as the State Transportation Improvement Program, local and federal funds. Because not all the revenues are secured for construction, the project will be constructed in useable segments.

**Background:** This resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

- Campus Parkway in Merced County –State Route 99/Mission Avenue Interchange To Yosemite Avenue (TCRP #106) Resolution E-07-20.

The Final Environmental Impact Report has been transmitted to Commission staff. The Commission's approval and the resulting filing of the Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the project planning process.

Attachment

CTCmemo0807 Rte 99 Campus Parkway Merced FinalEIR.doc

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Resolution For Approval Of Project For Consideration Of Future Funding  
Of  
Campus Parkway in Merced County  
State Route 99/Mission Avenue Interchange To Yosemite Avenue (TCRP #106)  
Resolution E-07-20**

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the County of Merced has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and the California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations for the following project:
- Campus Parkway in Merced County –State Route 99/Mission Avenue Interchange to Yosemite Avenue (TCRP #106).
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the County of Merced has considered the record taken as a whole and found that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse impact on wildlife resources or habitat.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission, as a responsible agency, finds that the:
- Campus Parkway in Merced County –State Route 99/Mission Avenue Interchange to Yosemite Avenue (TCRP #106) is approved for future consideration of funding.