

# Memorandum

**To:** Chair and Commissioners

**Date:** October 7, 2008

**From:** JOHN F. BARNA, JR.

**File:** Book Item 2.2c (5)  
Action

**Ref:** Negative Declaration – State Route 99/State Route 145 and State Route 99/Gateway Drive Interchange Improvements Project (Resolution E-08-18)

**ISSUE:** Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Negative Declaration and approve the attached Resolution E-08-18 to allow the State Route (SR) 99/SR 145 and SR 99/Gateway Drive Interchange Improvements project to be considered for future funding?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Commission accept the Negative Declaration for the SR 99/SR 145 and SR 99/Gateway Drive Interchange Improvements project and approve the attached Resolution to allow for future consideration of funding.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Madera (City), as the Lead Agency for compliance with CEQA, issued a Negative Declaration pursuant to Division 13 of the Public Resources Code on November 26, 2001. The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The City, in conjunction with Caltrans, proposes to reconstruct the existing SR 99/SR 145 and SR-99/Gateway Drive interchanges within the City of Madera. The purpose of the project is to relieve congestion at the SR 99/SR 145 Interchange, to provide better access from SR 99 to the Madera Community Hospital on Almond Avenue and to provide an additional two-way crossing of SR 99 in South Madera. The project is needed to provide sufficient capacity for the interchanges to improve existing level of service deficiencies and to meet Year 2025 traffic projections, as well as to improve traffic safety by reducing the accident potential. The proposed modifications will improve both the current and predicted levels of service for both interchanges.

Two alternatives were considered in the Initial Study. One alternative, the no build alternative, did not meet the project purpose and need since concerns regarding traffic congestion at the SR 99/SR 145 Interchange as well as access to Madera Community Hospital on Almond Avenue from SR 99 would remain unresolved. The second alternative, the preferred alternative includes:

- SR 99/Gateway Drive Interchange – widening the existing over crossing to accommodate two lanes of traffic, creating new on and off ramps, and extending Gateway Drive to connect to Almond Avenue.

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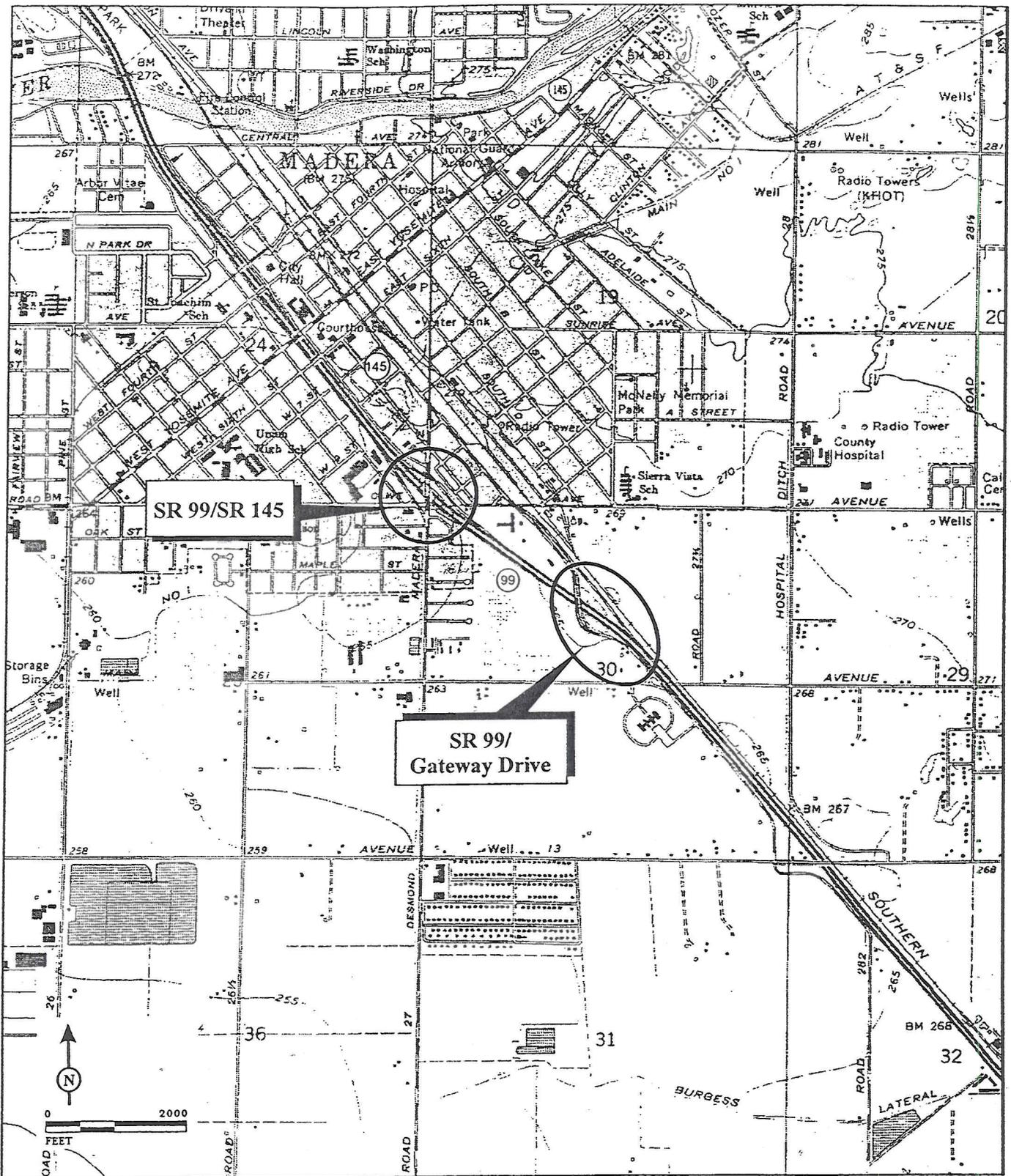
- SR-99/SR 145 Interchange – widening of the overpass from two to six lanes. These modifications will decrease traffic congestion by providing additional through lanes across the bridge, as well as dedicated turn lanes for entrance to northbound SR 99.

The cost estimate for both interchanges totals \$18,037,000. According to Caltrans, in May 2005, the project was split into two projects for programming and construction.

The SR 99/Gateway Drive Interchange Project was completed in 2006. The project costs totaled \$8,138,000. Funding was provided through Regional Improvement Program Funds (\$4,700,000) and Local Measure A Funds (\$3,438,000).

The SR 99/SR 145 Interchange Project, estimated to cost \$9,899,000 is scheduled for construction in FY 2008/09 and is fully funded with Regional Improvement Program Funds (\$6,400,000), Local Measure A Funds (\$1,099,000) and Federal High Priority Projects Program Funds (\$2,400,000).

Attachments



LSA

FIGURE 2-6

Madera Interchanges  
Vicinity Location

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' QUAD - MADERA, 1969 PR 1981

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**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding  
06-MAD-99, KP 14.4/17.5  
Resolution E-08-18**

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the City of Madera (City) has completed a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- State Route 99/State Route 145 and State Route 99/Gateway Drive Interchange Improvements Project in Madera County.
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the City has certified that the Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.