

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 14, 2009

Reference No.: 2.3b.
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry L. Abbott
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 10-SJ-99 PM 17.4**
RESOLUTION S-741

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-741 and map authorizing a new public road connection to State Route 99 (SR 99) at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, in the county of San Joaquin.

ISSUE:

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), in conjunction with the City of Stockton and the County of San Joaquin, have requested approval of a new public road connection to SR 99. 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 the attached resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as an interchange to SR 99, in the county of San Joaquin, at Post Mile 17.4.

Recommended by: _____
RICHARD D. LAND
Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), in conjunction with the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, and the Department, are proposing to construct a new interchange at SR 99 and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in San Joaquin County, near the junction with SR 4. Within the project limits, SR 99 is a four-lane freeway with four closely spaced interchanges. Traffic in the project area is highly congested during peak hours, with high demand from both regional and local traffic. These high traffic volumes, coupled with localized traffic weaving on SR 99, cause traffic to slow down to below acceptable levels. The proposed project is expected to improve the safety and operations of SR 99. In order for this project to proceed, Commission approval is required for the new public road connection to SR 99 at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

SR 99 is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System, and State Highway System. It is a major north/south arterial traversing the major cities throughout the Central Valley between I-5 south of Bakersfield in Kern County, and Route 36 near Red Bluff in Tehama County. In addition, SR 99 is part of the interregional road system and is a designated focus route in the Department's Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan. SR 99 provides essential access for the movement of people, goods, and services in addition to serving as a primary transportation route for agricultural products. SR 99 is also a major connector to all east/west routes throughout the Central Valley, providing linkages between the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sierra Nevada mountains. SR 99 also functions as a commuter route for residents of the communities of Merced, Livingston, Turlock, Modesto, Ripon, Manteca, Stockton, and Lodi as well as the counties of Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin.

This two mile section of SR 99 is a four-lane divided freeway with 12-foot wide travel lanes, 8-foot wide outside shoulders, and 5-foot wide inside shoulders. The median width varies from 36 feet to 26 feet between Mariposa Road and the Crosstown Freeway, SR 4 west of SR 99. SR 4 is not continuous through this area. Ramp connectors from SR 99 to SR 4 east of SR 99 are provided at Farmington Road interchange.

Proposed improvements will include freeway widening to six-lanes, reconstruction of structures to accommodate a future eight-lane facility, construction of auxiliary lanes in both directions from Mariposa Road interchange to the Crosstown Freeway, modification and reconstruction of the Mariposa Road interchange, removal of the Farmington Road interchange, removal of the Charter Way interchange, and construction of the new Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard interchange. Golden Gate Avenue will be realigned and renamed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. In addition, approximately 0.2 miles of SR 4, east of SR 99, will be reconstructed to align with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at the new interchange, hence providing route continuity between SR 99 and SR 4.

The four closely spaced interchanges within the project limits do not provide adequate weaving lengths for vehicles entering and exiting the freeway. Removing the two intermediate interchanges and replacing them with the proposed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard interchange will improve traffic operations on SR 99 by providing adequate weaving distances between adjacent interchanges. The proposed interchange will relieve local traffic congestion and provide an

important link between the freeway and local road system, thus providing improved emergency and service vehicle access to surrounding residential and commercial areas.

Traffic studies predict that current levels of service (LOS) will deteriorate to Level F by year 2034 if improvements are not made along this section of SR 99. LOS Level F corresponds to heavy congestion, long queues, and stop and go traffic. Additional traffic studies indicated that the proposed modifications to the facility and the inclusion of the new interchange will result in minimal re-routing of traffic to local streets and would work well with future growth.

The proposed improvements in the preferred alternative are accepted and supported by the community who recognize the need for safety and operational improvements within the project limits. Various public informational meetings were held for this project and the public hearing was held on April 16, 2008. All comments received were addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Assessment (FEIR/EA).

The Fact Sheet for Nonstandard Mandatory Design Exceptions was approved on September 24, 2008, and the Fact Sheet for Nonstandard Advisory Design Exceptions was approved on September 30, 2008. The Project Report was approved on October 28, 2008. The FEIR/EA satisfying the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act was approved by the Department on September 26, 2008. A Finding of No Significant Impact was approved on October 15, 2008. The project was approved by the Commission for future consideration of funding on March 12, 2009, under Resolution E-09-19.

Estimated construction cost for this project is \$152,900,000 and Right of Way cost is estimated at \$56,700,000 (escalated 5 percent per year to year 2012). Funding would come from the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program, the SR 99 Proposition 1B Corridor Program, San Joaquin County Measure "K" funds, and Regional Traffic Impact Fees.

The State Route 99 South Stockton Widening project (PPNO 7668) (Arch Road to SR 4) is part of the SR 99 Corridor Program of Proposition 1B – Transportation Bond Program. Approval of this new interchange is required for the execution of this corridor program.

At the completion of the project, right of way acquired for project construction on the local streets will be relinquished back to the City of Stockton or to the County of San Joaquin.

Superseding freeway agreements were adopted by the County of San Joaquin on March 3, 2009, and by the City of Stockton on April 21, 2009. These freeway agreements will be executed by the Department after Commission approval of the new connection.

Attachments

Resolution S-741

Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection
10-SJ-99 PM 17.4**

Resolution S-741

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), in conjunction with the City of Stockton and the County of San Joaquin, have requested approval of a new public road connection on State Route 99 for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard; and

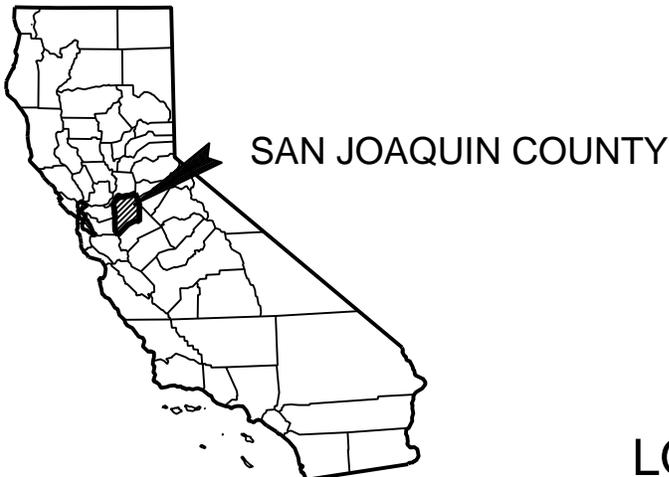
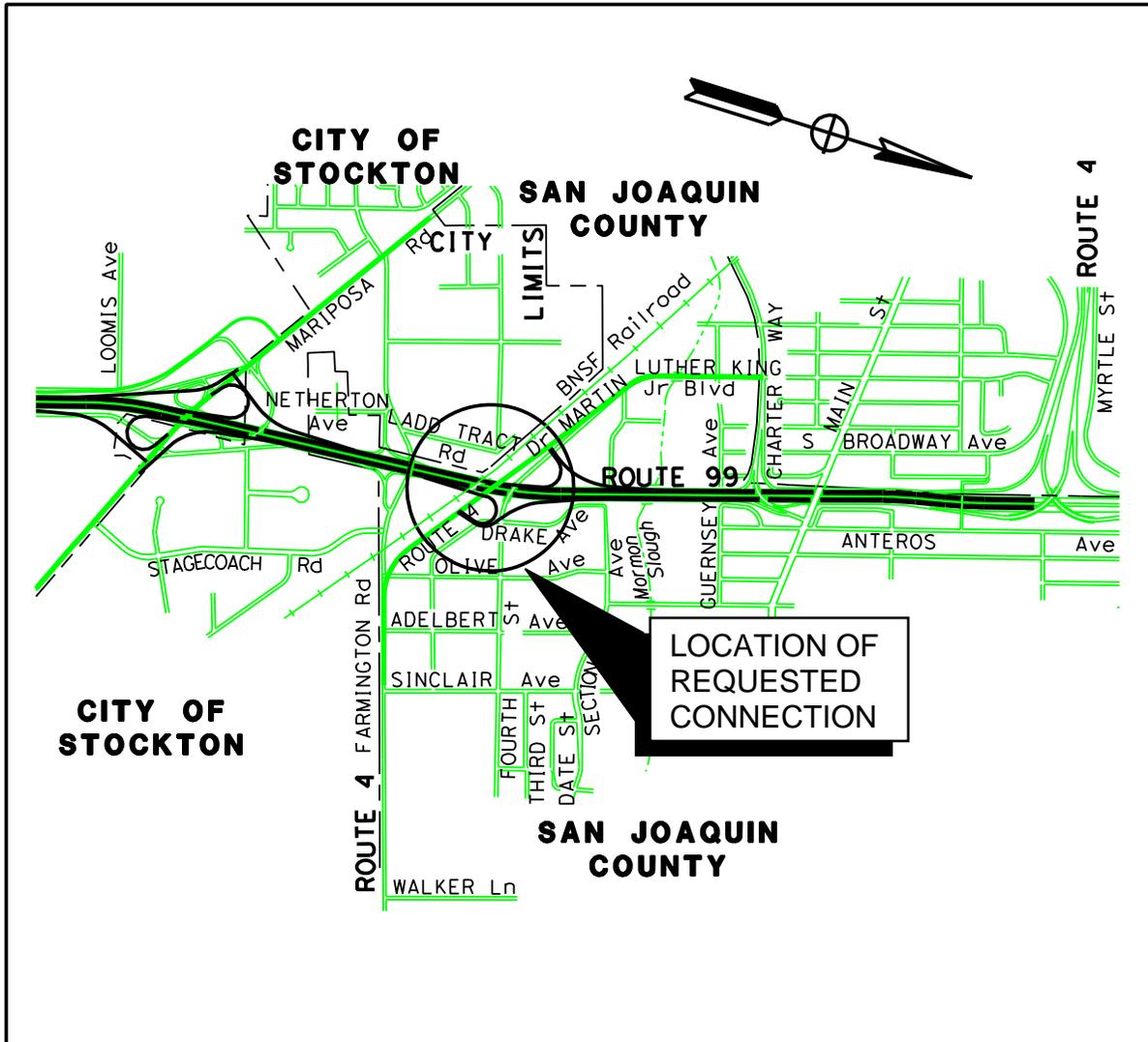
WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment was approved on September 26, 2008, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, the project will have impacts on the environment that will be mitigated.

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 one new public road connection on State Route 99 at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Post Mile 17.4, in the county of San Joaquin.



NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION 10 - SAN JOAQUIN - 99



LOCATION MAP