

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: September 24, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (10)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San Juan Highway Bike Lanes Project (Resolution E-09-83)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the San Juan Highway Bike Lanes Project (project) in San Benito County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND: The Council of San Benito County Governments (Council) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project will provide approximately 3 miles of class II bike lane along San Juan Highway from Anzar High School near U.S. Highway 101 to Monterey Street in the community of San Juan Bautista. The Class II bike lane will be constructed adjacent to the vehicle travel lanes in both directions along the pavement edge. The bike lane will serve the students, faculty, and staff of Anzar High School, residents of San Juan Bautista, commuters, tourists and bicycle enthusiasts.

On August 16, 2007, the Council approved the MND. The Council found that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. All significant environmental impacts related to the project can be either avoided or reduced through implementation of mitigation measures.

Impacts that required mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level related to the potential for air quality impacts during construction; inadvertent impacts to the drainage channel during construction; disturbances to the drainage channel and its banks causing siltation of the downstream waterway; archaeological or historical resources may exist along the bike route; future seismic activity along the San Andreas Fault may result in fault creep or surface rupture causing pavement damage to the bike lane; and ground shaking may cause liquefaction of differential settlement of soils beneath the bike lane.

Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, implementation of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District standard mitigation practices during construction; avoidance of the creek channel and its banks during construction; consultation with the California Fish and Game with respect to expansion of a box culvert over the drainage channel; hiring a qualified

archaeologist if cultural resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities; timely maintenance and repair of damaged pavement along the bike lane; design and construction of the bike lanes using standard engineering practices based on existing soil conditions.

This project is programmed in the STIP. The Council has provided written confirmation that the environmental document pertains to the project scope programmed and that the project scope and cost programmed in the STIP remains unchanged.

The project is estimated to cost \$2,224,551. The project is programmed for funding with STIP TE (\$252,000), BTA (\$705,641), Federal (\$980,214), and Local (\$286,696) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2009/2010.

Attachments

- Resolution E-09-83
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

05-San Benito

Resolution E-09-83

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the Council of San Benito County Governments (Council) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - San Juan Highway Bike Lanes Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the Council has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project would construct a Class II bike lane roughly three miles along San Juan Highway from U.S. 101 near Anzar High School to Monterey Street in San Juan Bautista; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the Council found that all significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced by mitigation measures to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the Council approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

