

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: January 8, 2013

Reference No.: 2.3b.
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry L. Abbott
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 06-Fre-180**
RESOLUTION S-755

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-755 and map authorizing a temporary new public road connection from Kings Canyon South Frontage Road to State Route (SR) 180 in the county of Fresno.

ISSUE:

The Department and County of Fresno request approval of a temporary new public road connection to SR 180. 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 resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as a temporary connection to SR 180 from Kings Canyon South Frontage Road at Post Mile (PM) 73.8, in the county of Fresno.

Recommended by: KARLA SUTLIFF
Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The Kings Canyon Expressway project will widen SR 180 and construct other improvements, in eastern Fresno County. The project will mitigate traffic congestion and improve levels of service due to current and projected growth in the area. This project will be constructed in three segments. Segment 1, at the west end of the project, has already been constructed. The proposed temporary new public road connection is necessary to provide access to SR 180 from properties adjoining the Kings Canyon South Frontage Road during the construction of segment 2.

SR 180 entered the California Highway System by legislation in 1933 as SR 41, formerly a county road. This extensive route has been adopted in many segments. The segment that pertains to this project was adopted by the Commission in 1995 as a controlled access highway from 0.1 mile west of Temperance Avenue to Frankwood Avenue, approximately 12.3 miles.

SR 180 within the Fresno area is known as Kings Canyon Road. It is a west to east principal arterial across Fresno County serving traffic between the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. This route is a key thoroughfare for the transport of agricultural goods from ranches and farms east of Fresno, and is of growing importance for commuter travel between the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area and eastern Fresno County. The present route is a two-lane conventional highway traversing flat to gently rolling terrain that is used primarily for farming and grazing. SR 180 from SR 99 to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National parks is included in the National Highway System.

The Kings Canyon Expressway project, Segment 2, proposes to improve safety and increase highway capacity by converting SR 180 from a two-lane conventional highway to a four-lane expressway starting at 0.2 mile west of Quality Avenue to just east of Trimmer Springs Road. This segment will connect with the previously constructed Segment 1, west of Quality Avenue. Six months ago, it was determined that environmental permits necessary for project delivery could not be obtained for the Centerville Kingsburg Canal, also known as Kingsberg Canal, and China Slough locations to meet the accelerated project schedule needed for Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funding. Therefore, the Segment 2 project scope was revised to meet the CMIA funding deadline. The eastern project limit was moved from east of Trimmer Springs Road to a location west of the Centerville Kingsburg Canal. Unfortunately, the project did not receive the CMIA funding requested but it was decided to move forward with the revised project scope. Local Measure funding and State and Local Partnership Program funding (Proposition 1B) will be used to fully fund this project. Construction of Segment 2 is expected to start August, 2013. Project scope for Segment 3 will be revised to include the area from the revised Segment 2 project limit to the China Slough location east of Trimmer Springs Road.

Due to the Segment 2 project limit change, a temporary new public road connection is proposed to SR 180 from Kings Canyon South Frontage Road on the south side of SR 180. The connection is necessary to provide access to properties adjoining the frontage road to SR 180 during the Segment 2 construction period. The temporary connection will be in service starting July 2013 until the transition to Segment 3 is constructed (approximately July 2016). The frontage road associated with the new public connection will be relinquished to Fresno County upon completion of Segment 2.

There are no alternatives to the proposed connector location for providing access for the affected property owners. Other locations for constructing further to the east were considered but were found to be infeasible because necessary left turn movements from westbound SR 180 to the connector would create insufficient stopping sight distance for westbound SR 180 traffic descending from the Centerville Kingsburg Canal crossing.

Segment 2 does not include any nonstandard design features; therefore, design exceptions were not required.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement was approved on September 29, 1995, and a Record of Decision was filed on April 18, 1996. Changes to the design of the project resulted in the preparation of a Categorical Exception/Categorical Exclusion approved on January 9, 2002 and preparation of a CEQA addendum approved on June 29, 2004. A second re-evaluation document to cover additional changes to the design and the completion of an updated biological opinion was approved on December 20, 2005. A third and recent environmental re-validation document to address current changes to the design and scope was approved on July 19, 2012. Concurrent with this agenda item the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement is being considered under Item 2.2(3).

Project Report for the freeway and expressway project was approved on October 24, 1995. Since then, several Supplemental Project Reports have been written to build the freeway and expressway in phases and/or segments. A recent Supplemental Project report for this Segment 2 project was approved on August 23, 2012.

A superseding controlled access highway was signed by the County of Fresno on December 4, 2012, and will be executed by the Department after Commission approval of the temporary new public road connection.

Attachments

Resolution S-755
Location Map
Area Map

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a Temporary New Public Road Connection

6-FRE-180 PM 73.8

Resolution S-755

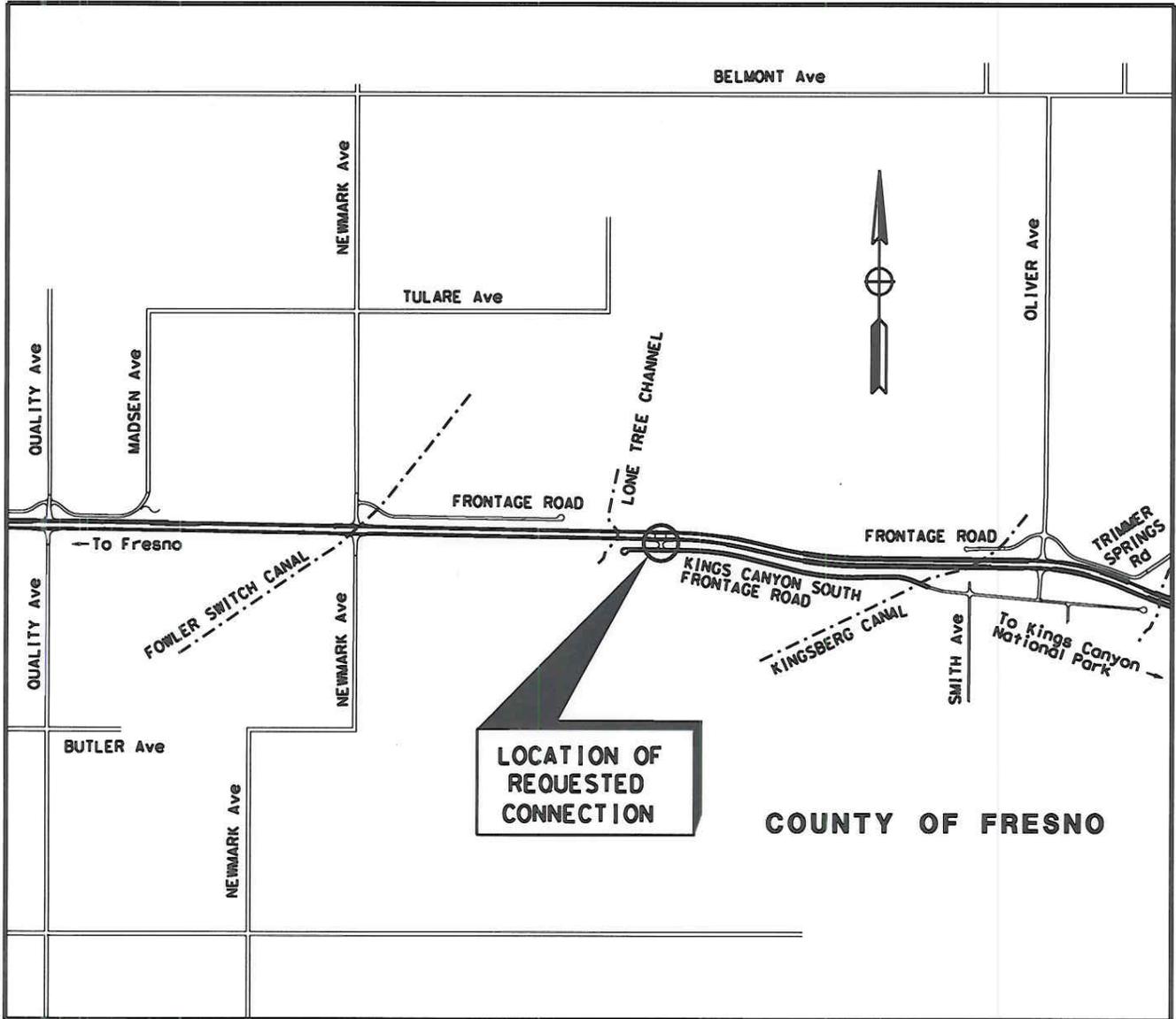
WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department), with input on the project from the County of Fresno, has completed studies relative to the construction of State Highway Route 180 and the temporary new public road connection, in Fresno County; and

WHEREAS, the Department has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement and environmental re-validation documents to address changes to design and scope for different segments of the Kings Canyon Expressway project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission (Commission) that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby authorize one temporary new public road connection to State Route 180 from Kings Canyon South Frontage Road at Post Mile (PM) 73.8, in the county of Fresno.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that this new public road connection to said State highway is for the best interest of the State.

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION 06-FRE-180-PM 73.8



LOCATION MAP

