

## Memorandum

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS  
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**CTC Meeting:** June 27–28, 2018

**Reference No:** 2.3b.(2)  
Action Item

**From:** STEVEN KECK  
Chief Financial Officer

**Prepared by:** Janice Benton, Chief  
Division of Design

**Subject:** NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 02-LAS-36-PM R26.9  
RESOLUTION S-762

**ISSUE:**

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the California Department of Transportation's (Department) request to approve a new public road connection to State Route (SR) 36 at Skyline Road at Post Mile (PM) R26.9 in the county of Lassen?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the attached Resolution S-762 and map authorizing a new public road connection at Skyline Road to SR 36 in the county of Lassen. The County of Lassen has requested approval of a new public road connection to SR 36. 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.

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
KARLA SUTLIFF  
Chief Engineer

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Susanville, County of Lassen (County) and Lassen County Transportation Commission (LCTC) propose to construct a new public road connection to State Route (SR) 36 at Skyline Road. The new connection would complete the extension of Skyline Road from Johnstonville Road in the city of Susanville to SR 36 in the county of Lassen. The new connection will improve traffic circulation by providing an efficient, alternate route for local and interregional trips on the State Highway System, thereby reducing traffic congestion along central urban arterials.

Development in the northeast area of the city of Susanville has increased traffic congestion through central Susanville. Forecasted growth will add to the congestion on SR 36, SR 139 and local roads. The 2012 SR 36 Transportation Concept Report supports the project, which is consistent with the Lassen County Regional Transportation Plan.

SR 36 is an east-west route that traverses from Route 101 in the city of Fortuna in Humboldt County, passing near the community of Forest Glen in Trinity County, the city of Red Bluff in Tehama County, and the town of Chester, to Route 395 near Johnstonville Road in Lassen County. SR 36 is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System and the route concept is a four-lane expressway. SR 36 through the project limits was adopted as a freeway by the California Highway Commission on July 20, 1960. The Department denominated this segment as a controlled access highway on March 15, 1977. Through the project limits, the facility is a two-lane expressway with 12-foot traveled ways and 8-foot shoulders. The route predominantly serves local and regional traffic, with some longer interregional trips.

The Skyline Road project was initiated in the early 1990's as a corridor project. The "Skyline Corridor" included three phases: Skyline Road East (SR 139 to Johnstonville Road), Skyline Road Extension (Johnstonville Road to SR 36) and Skyline Road South (SR 36 to Richmond Road). This corridor project would connect SR 139, SR 36, and Richmond Road just outside the city of Susanville. All three phases were programmed for funding beginning in the 1998 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Environmental work began on all three phases and project alternatives were determined for Skyline Road East and Skyline Road Extension. The County decided to proceed with Skyline Road East and Skyline Road Extension but Skyline Road South was delayed.

Both Skyline Road East and Skyline Road Extension have been top priorities for the LCTC and the community. Skyline Road East and Skyline Road Extension both proceeded through environmental clearance simultaneously in 1999. Due to funding restraints, the County determined that it was not feasible to continue both projects simultaneously so it was decided to complete Skyline Road East first while still moving forward with Skyline Road Extension. The Skyline Road East phase was completed in July 2008. Once Skyline Road Extension phase is completed, the LCTC will seek funding and proceed with Skyline Road South.

The Skyline Road Extension would lengthen Skyline Road from Johnstonville Road and connect to SR 36 at PM R26.9 with an at-grade three-way signalized intersection, about 0.2

miles southeast of the Susan River Bridge (Br. No. 07-0033). The Skyline Road Extension will construct a two-lane undivided roadway with 12-foot lanes, 8-foot shoulders and an adjacent paved Class I Bikeway. SR 36 will be widened to accommodate an eastbound left-turn lane and a westbound right-turn lane to the new Skyline Road. The estimated project cost for this road connection is \$1,680,000 utilizing STIP and local funding.

Upon completion of the Skyline Road Extension, interregional and local traffic from communities south of Susanville will be able to use Skyline Road as an expedient route to reach destinations north of the city of Susanville. Trucks and recreational vehicles travelling between Reno, Nevada to Klamath Falls, Oregon would also have an alternate route instead of traveling through central Susanville.

The County Board of Supervisors and LCTC conducted several public meetings from 2016 to 2018. The Department approved the Project Study Report-Project Report for Skyline Road Extension Intersection Access on January 18, 2018.

The County, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Skyline Road project, approved the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) on December 11, 2001. On May 3, 2003, the County certified an Environmental Supplement to the FEIR. On March 16, 2005, the Federal Highway Administration completed a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment. The County confirmed that there are no new environmental impacts that require mitigation on May 5, 2011 and the Commission approved the FEIR on June 22, 2011. The Department completed a NEPA Re-validation on November 17, 2017 and the County completed a CEQA Re-validation on January 5, 2018. The NEPA/CEQA Re-validation concluded that the approved Environmental Document remains valid.

The Department will finalize the execution of a superseding Controlled Access Highway Agreement after Commission approval of the new public road connection. The Department is in the process of preparing a Maintenance Agreement.

Attachments:  
Resolution S-762  
Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection**

**02-Las-36-PM R26.9**

**Resolution S-762**

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) and the County of Lassen (County) jointly request approval of a new public road connection on Route 36 for Skyline Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the County completed a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) on December 11, 2001 and an Environmental Supplement to the FEIR on May 3, 2003 and confirmed that the FEIR remains valid on January 5, 2018 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; and

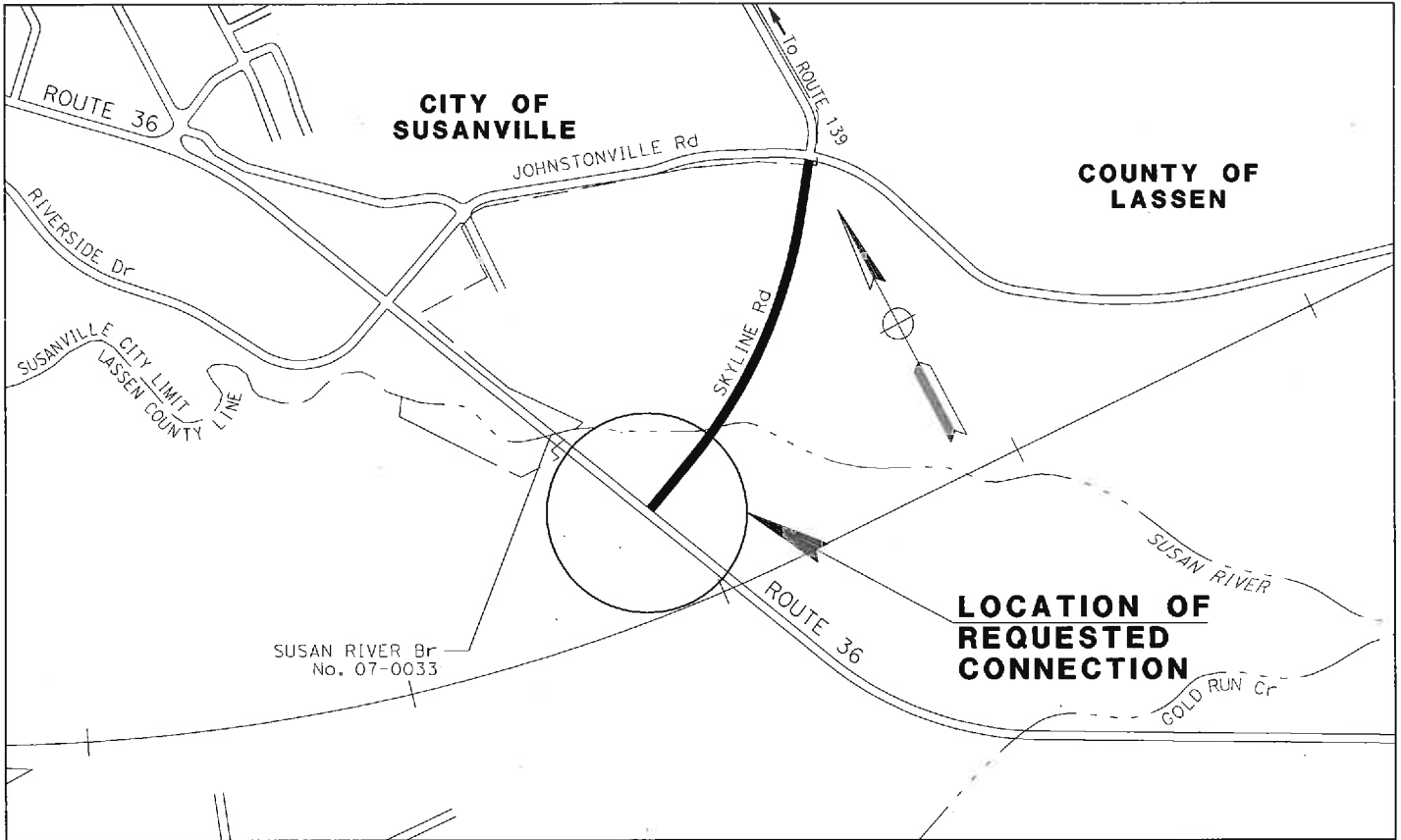
**WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission approved the FEIR on June 22, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department approved a Project Report recommending the new public road connection on January 18, 2018.

**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 a new public road connection on Route 36 at Skyline Road, Post Mile R26.9, in the county of Lassen.



# NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION 02-LAS-36 PM R26.9



**LOCATION MAP**