

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

HIGHWAY ROUTE MATTERS
New Public Road Connection
Resolution S-707
12-Ora-405 KP 12.6/15.8 (R8.9/R11.7)
CTC Meeting: June 14-15, 2000

Prepared by:
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Agenda Item: 2.3b.1

Original Signed By Jim Nicholas for
W.J. EVANS, Deputy Director Finance
June 1, 2000

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION

Recommendation

The Department of Transportation recommends the California Transportation Commission approve the attached Resolution S-707. The resolution approves two new public road connections in the City of Costa Mesa, in the County of Orange:

- A connection from the proposed northbound I-405/Bristol Street off-ramp to Avenue of the Arts.
- A connection from Anton Boulevard to the proposed SR-55/I-405 northbound branch connection (Kilometer Post 12.6/15.8 [R8.9/R11.7]).

Recommended by: *Original Signed By*
BRENT FELKER, Deputy Director, Project Development

Issue

The City of Costa Mesa and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) have requested approval of new public road connections from the proposed northbound I-405/Bristol Street off-ramp to Avenue of the Arts and from Anton Boulevard to the proposed SR-55/I-405 northbound connection. 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.

Background

The proposed project is to construct the following facilities:

- A connection from the proposed northbound I-405/Bristol Street off-ramp to Avenue of the Arts on the north side of I-405.
- A new connection from Anton Boulevard to the proposed SR-55/I405 northbound branch connection.

The new connections will utilize the construction of the proposed grade separated braiding of the northbound I-405/Bristol Street off-ramp and the southbound SR-55/northbound I-405 branch connection for additional access points to the South Coast Metro area from I-405.

The construction cost of the grade separation structure, Anton Avenue connection to southbound SR 55/northbound I-405, and the northbound I-405 exit to Avenue of the Arts/Bristol Street is estimated at \$24,170,000 and the right-of-way cost at \$5,970,000. An Initial Study/Environmental Assessment was prepared and the Negative Declaration/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was approved July 16, 1999. A notice of Determination was filed on August 25, 1999. The Commission has considered the Negative Declaration and a copy of the Initial Study has been transmitted to the Commission's staff.

These projects are not programmed in the 1998 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and will be funded entirely by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)

The access control along the SR-55 and I-405 will be conveyed to the State as described in the cooperative agreement with OCTA.

Discussion

SR-55 is a component of the State Freeway and Expressway System and the National Highway System. SR-55 begins as an extension of Newport Boulevard in Costa Mesa and continues northward to SR-91. The California Highway Commission on July 20, 1944 adopted SR-55 as a freeway. This facility provides six general purpose lanes (three lanes in each direction) plus an HOV lane in both directions between I-405 and MacArthur Boulevard.

Interstate 405 is a component of the Interstate Highway System and the National Highway System. As an interstate loop highway it extends from Irvine to San Fernando, linking to I-5 at both ends. The California Highway Commission on February 19, 1953 adopted I-405 as a freeway. This facility provides four mixed flow lanes and one HOV lane in each direction throughout Orange County between I-5 and I-605.

To reduce congestion and encourage the use of buses and high occupancy vehicles (HOV), OCTA has developed the I-405/SR-55 Transitway Project. The Project Report for the I-405/SR-55 Transitway Project was signed on August 31, 1993.

At the same time that OCTA was developing the Transitway Project, the City of Costa Mesa was studying access improvements along I-405 from SR-55 to Harbor Boulevard. A Supplemental Draft Project Report was approved on August 11, 1999 which incorporates the local access improvements with the Transitway Project. The report focused on the I-405 access modifications required to eliminate the weaving conflicts on I-405 between SR-55 and Bristol Street.

Existing freeway traffic volumes are high and significant congestion exists along the I-405 corridor. In 1994, the annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes on I-405 near SR-55 and Bristol Street ranged between 8,040 vehicles per hour (VPH) and 9,306 (VPH). It is predicted by the year 2015 there will be a 30 percent increase in the peak-hour volumes on SR-55 and a 15 percent increase on I-405.

Traffic enters northbound I-405 from southbound SR-55 via a connector ramp approximately 570 m (1,870 feet) prior to the existing northbound I-405/Bristol Street offramp. The mainline weave between these two ramps operates at a Level of Service (LOS) E which represents operating conditions which are at or near capacity during the AM and PM peak hours.

The project proposes a grade separation of the southbound SR-55/northbound I-405 branch connection and the northbound I-405 off-ramp to Bristol Street. These structures will eliminate the weaving between these two streams of traffic and improve the northbound I-405 mainline operation to LOS D (the facility should operate at a high-density, but stable flow) during the AM and PM peak hours in the year 2015. The connection of Anton Boulevard and Avenue of the Arts to the proposed facilities will give additional local access to South Coast Plaza and the Metro Center.

OCTA has executed a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for transfers of funds.

The City of Costa Mesa and the County of Orange have executed freeway agreements, which show the connection of Avenue of the Art and Anton Boulevard to I-405.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution Authorizing
A New Public Road Connection
To the Freeway
12-Ora-405 KP 12.6/15.8 (R8.9/R11.7)

Resolution Number S-707

WHEREAS, a superceding Freeway Agreement for Route 55 from KP R8.9/R9.7 (PM R5.5/R6.0), Route 73 from KP R12.4/R12.6 (PM R7.7/R7.8) and Route 405 from KP 14.0/20.0 (PM 8.7/12.4) was executed by the City of Costa Mesa at their May 1, 2000 meeting showing a new public road connection at Anton Boulevard and at Avenue of the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a superceding Freeway Agreement for Route 55 from KP R9.6/R10.3 (PM R6.0/R6.4) and Rout I-405 from KP14.0/20.0 (PM 8.7/12.5) was executed by the County of Orange at their May 16, 2000 meeting showing a new public road connection at Anton Boulevard and at Avenue of the Arts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa has requested approval of a new public road connection from Avenue of the Arts to Interstate 405 and from Anton Boulevard to Interstate 405:

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has completed a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, this project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has given their approval, on May 15, 1997 for the new public road connection along I-405.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission that it hereby authorizes a new public road connection to Interstate 405 at Anton Boulevard and Avenue of the Arts KP 12.6/15.8 (R8.9/R11.7) in the City of Costa Mesa, in the County of Orange; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of construction and right of way for the new connection shall be borne by others.