

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: November 6-7, 2002

Reference No.: 2.3a.(2)
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Karla Sutliff
Chief
Division of Design

Ref: **ADOPTION OF LOCATION FOR STATE HIGHWAY AS A CONTROLLED ACCESS
HIGHWAY, 10-CAL-4 KP R34.0/R37.5 (PM R21.2/R23.3), RESOLUTION HRA-02-07**

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Highway Route Adoption Resolution HRA 02-07 and a route location map for the State Highway Route 4. The Department of Transportation recommends that the Commission approve the resolution and the route location map in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. This resolution adopts a new 3.5 kilometer (2.2 mile) location for the State Highway Route 4 from its west junction with State Route 49 to a point on existing Route 4, 2.1 kilometer west of Six Mile Creek. Relinquishment of the superseded portion of Route 4 is the subject of Cooperative Agreements currently being negotiated. No Redesignation Resolution is required because Route 4 has a break-in-route at Route 49; it is not contiguous between existing junctions with Route 49.

A Project Report was approved on July 18, 2002. The Finding of No Significant Impact, Final Environmental Impact Report and Section 4(f) Evaluation were approved on June 26, 2002.

Recommended by: 
BRENT FELKER, Deputy Director
Project Development

BACKGROUND

Existing State Highway Route 4 is one of two state highways providing access to Angels Camp, the other being Route 49. From San Joaquin County, Route 4 heads easterly through Stanislaus and Calaveras Counties to the west junction with Route 49 (known as Route 65 in the original route adoption for Route 4) in Altaville, at the north end of Angels Camp. While Routes 4 and 49 are functionally coincident for 2.3 kilometer (1.4 miles) through downtown Angels Camp, Route 4 technically has a break-in-route between the west and east junctions. This section of Route 49 begins as a two lane highway with a continuous left turn lane at the west junction and narrows to a two lane street through downtown. Route 4 begins again and continues at the southern end of the city, heading easterly from Route 49 towards Arnold, Ebbett's Pass and Alpine County. Route 4 is the only roadway in Calaveras County providing access directly to the High Sierras.

Angels Camp is a growing community, especially at the west junction of these two State Routes. There has been commercial strip development along Route 49 between the west and east junctions with Route 4, where the State facility functions as the city's main north/south arterial, in addition to its regional duties as the primary north/south arterial connecting the communities in the Sierra foothills. The development generates substantial cross-traffic and nearly every intersection along the route experiences congestion and delay. The condition worsens during the periods of peak recreational traffic, as motorists on Route 4 must use the downtown segment as access to and from the Sierras. Travelers familiar with the network of local back roads often seek to avoid the congestion in downtown Angels Camp by using Murphy's Grade Road as form of bypass, but then experience similar cross-traffic congestion in Murphy's prior to rejoining Route 4. Development in downtown Angels Camp is built up at the edge of right of way with commercial and historically significant buildings. As a result, widening to meet design standards or traffic demand would be environmentally and financially quite challenging.

The proposed Angels Camp Bypass has been under study and development with considerable public and local agency input and direction since 1984. It is the number one State Highway priority for the Calaveras County Transportation Commission, the City of Angels Camp, and Calaveras County, and has been for many years. Local transportation officials have taken every step possible to ensure that future development in the area conforms to the bypass concept. Following many years of alternative development and modification, a Project Report was approved on July 18, 2002 following the Finding of No Significant Impact, Final Environmental Impact Report and Section 4(f) Evaluation, which were approved on June 26, 2002. This project report identified the proposal below as the preferred alternative.

PROPOSAL

The District proposes to construct a two-lane controlled access highway on new alignment from the west junction of State Routes 4 and 49 in the North Angels Camp/Altaville Area to a point on State Route 4, approximately 0.9 kilometer (0.6 mile) east of the Roller Bypass Road junction. This project will help alleviate congestion in downtown Angels Camp by allowing through traffic on Route 4 to bypass the City. Resolution E-02-51, approved by the Commission on October 3, 2002, approved future funding in the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) at approximately \$31.5 million with \$18.5 million from Interregional Improvement Program funds. Construction is scheduled to begin in the 2004/2005 fiscal year.

COORDINATION

A Project Report was approved on July 18, 2002. The Finding of No Significant Impact, Final Environmental Impact Report and Section 4(f) Evaluation were approved on June 26, 2002. On September 19, 2002, the Commission, as the lead agency, approved the consideration of funding in Resolution E-02-51.

New Controlled Access Highway Agreements between the Department and the City of Angels Camp and between the Department and Calaveras County have been prepared for execution pending the approval of this resolution. Cooperative Agreements between the Department and each of these local agencies with respect to relinquishment of old Route 4 and the expected effort to bring the roadway to a state of good repair are currently being negotiated. The break-in-route means that Route 4 is discontinuous, therefore, a Redesignation Resolution for Route 49 is not necessary.

CONCLUSION

The proposed route adoption for this segment of State Highway Route 4 is needed to improve safety and to reduce congestion and operational deficiencies in the City of Angels Camp. For these reasons the adoption of the proposed highway is in the best interest of the public.

Attachment(s)

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Adopting A Controlled Access Highway Location
10-CAL-4 KP-R34.0/R37.5 (PM R21.2/R23.3)

Resolution HRA 02-07

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, with input for the project from the City of Angels Camp, Calaveras County, and the Calaveras County Transportation Commission has completed studies and approved of the public hearing process relative to the adopted location for State Highway Route 4, in Calaveras County, from the west junction at State Highway 49 to a point on existing Route 4, 2.1 kilometer (2.2 mile) west of Six Mile Creek; and

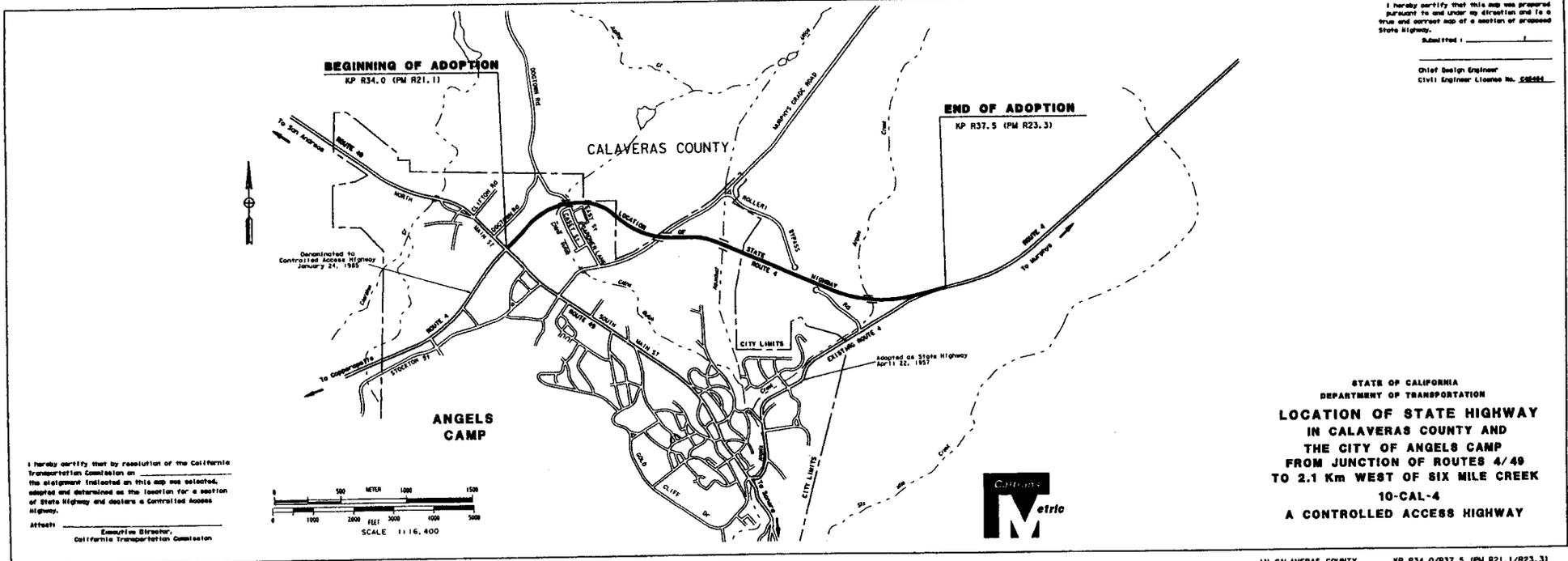
WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has completed a Finding of No Significant Impact, Final Environmental Impact Report and Section 4(f) Evaluation; and,

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

WHEREAS, existing Route 4 is discontinuous between its west and east junctions with Route 49, obviating the need for a redesignation resolution and map for Route 49; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby select, adopt and determine the location of that segment of State Highway Route 4, Kilometer Post R34.0 (Postmile R21.2) to Kilometer Post R37.5 (Postmile R23.3), in Calaveras County and officially designated as 10-Cal-4, as said location is shown on the map submitted on November 1, 2002 by Karla Sutliff, Chief, Division of Design; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that such the location of said State highway is for the best interest of the State.



I hereby certify that this map was prepared pursuant to and under my direction and is a true and correct map of a section of proposed State Highway.

Submitted: _____

Chief Design Engineer
Civil Engineer License No. 66864

I hereby certify that by resolution of the California Transportation Commission on the alignment indicated on this map was selected, adopted and determined as the location for a section of State Highway and declared a Controlled Access Highway.

Attests: _____
Commission Engineer,
California Transportation Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
**LOCATION OF STATE HIGHWAY
IN CALAVERAS COUNTY AND
THE CITY OF ANGELS CAMP
FROM JUNCTION OF ROUTES 4/49
TO 2.1 Km WEST OF SIX MILE CREEK
10-CAL-4
A CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY**