

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: April 25-26, 2007

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

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Mark Leja
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 12-ORA-405 PM 11.1**
RESOLUTION S-730

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-730 and map authorizing a new public road connection at Susan Street to Interstate 405 (I-405) in the city of Costa Mesa.

ISSUE:

The City of Costa Mesa has requested approval of a new public road connection to I-405. 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 to I-405 as an off ramp in the city of Costa Mesa, at Post Mile 11.1.

Recommended by: _____
RICHARD D. LAND
Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

Due to the projected growth and congestion of the local area, the City of Costa Mesa and the Department have identified this interchange improvement within the I-405 corridor that would improve existing operating conditions, enhance safety, and increase the capacity of the facilities. The Susan Street off-ramp improvement is an integral part of the overall transportation improvement program for the City of Costa Mesa. On November 7, 2001, a Project Study Report (PSR) was approved to modify the existing Susan Street interchange. The Project Report was approved on March 23, 2007.

On February 19, 1953, the California Highway Commission adopted I-405 as a freeway. I-405 begins at I-5 in the city of San Fernando in Los Angeles County and terminates at I-5 near the city of Irvine in Orange County. Within the county of Orange, I-405 serves the cities of Irvine, Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Westminster, and Seal Beach. I-405 became part of the Freeway & Expressway System in 1959. The entire length of I-405 is part of the National Highway System, the Department of Defense Priority Network, the Interstate Highway System, and the Strategic Highway Corridor Network. The 1990 Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) identifies I-405 as a "National Network" route for STAA trucks. On May 1, 2000, the City of Costa Mesa approved a revised freeway agreement with the Department for this segment of I-405.

I-405 is a major north-south freeway serving as a bypass to the I-5 corridor in the region. I-405 is used for commuting and inter-regional travel. The City of Costa Mesa has planned development north of I-405 that is expected to worsen congestion along the existing Fairview Road and Harbor Boulevard interchanges and local network. The proposed improvement will mitigate congestion by providing direct access from the northbound I-405 distributor road and diverting traffic from the existing Harbor Boulevard and Fairview Road interchanges to this proposed improvement at Susan Street. Commission approval is required for the new public road connection to I-405.

The proposed improvement is to construct a northbound I-405 off-ramp to Susan Street. Susan Street, a north-south arterial, is located north of I-405 midway between Harbor Boulevard and Fairview Road. The Susan Street off-ramp will begin 0.4 miles west of northbound State Route 73 to northbound I-405 merge. The off-ramp extends 0.2 miles as a single lane and widens to three lanes at the ramp terminus. The Susan Street off-ramp will be braided below the Fairview Road on-ramp to northbound I-405. The proposed improvements will increase the capacity and improve operations of the existing Harbor Boulevard and Fairview Road interchanges.

This project is funded by the City of Costa Mesa at a cost of \$1,400,000 for construction and \$52,000 for right of way.

FHWA oversight and approvals for this project are exempt under Section 1916 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of 2005.

This project is consistent with the transportation concept report and the city of Costa Mesa General Plan.

Advisory and mandatory design exceptions were approved on March 23, 2007.

The Department approved the Project Report on March 23, 2007. An Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act by the City of Costa Mesa. The City of Costa Mesa has submitted the environmental document for this new connection. A concurrent environmental action is under item 2.2c.

A revised Freeway Agreement will be signed by the City of Costa Mesa on April 3, 2007, and will be executed by the Department after Commission approval of the new connection.

Attachments

Resolution S-730

New Public Road Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection
12-Ora-405 – PM 11.1**

Resolution S-730

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa has requested approval of a new public road connection on Interstate 405 for Susan Street; and

WHEREAS, a mitigated Negative Declaration has been approved in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, the project will have impacts to the environment that will be mitigated.

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 one new public road connection on Interstate 405 at Susan Street, PM 11.1, in the city of Costa Mesa.

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION LOCATION MAP 12-ORANGE-405

