

## Memorandum

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

**CTC Meeting:** February 13-14, 2008

**Reference No.:** 2.3a.(2)  
Action item

**From:** CINDY McKIM  
Chief Financial Officer

**Prepared by:** Timothy Craggs  
Acting Chief  
Division of Design

**Subject:** ROUTE REDESIGNATION, 1-MEN-20 PM R33.1/R35.9  
RESOLUTION HRR 08-01

### RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Highway Route Redesignation Resolution HRR 08-01 and a route redesignation map for State Highway Route (SR) 20. The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission approve the resolution and the route redesignation map in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of the route redesignation of 2.8 miles of SR 101 to SR 20 in the county of Mendocino from Post Mile (PM) R33.1 to R35.9.

### ISSUE:

The Department and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) propose to modify the adopted route for SR 101 and to redesignate the former route to SR 20 in the vicinity of the city of Willits. A Project Report was approved December 15, 2006. A Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report was prepared for National Environmental Protection Act and California Environmental Quality Act approval. This document was approved on October 25, 2006.

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD D. LAND  
Chief Engineer

**BACKGROUND:**

The project limits includes two highways--SR 101, which is the only through north-south roadway in Willits, and SR 20, which runs west to east through the city of Willits to the junction with SR 101.

The Willits Bypass project proposes to construct a four-lane freeway on a new alignment with full access control just east of Willits. The freeway will depart from existing SR 101 approximately 0.3 miles south of the Haehl Overhead and will end approximately 1.8 miles south of Reynolds Highway along the existing SR 101 alignment just south of the at-grade rail crossing of the Northwestern Pacific Railway. Since the new alignment of SR 101 will no longer connect to SR 20, the project proposes redesignation of the existing portion of SR 101, from 0.3 miles south of Haehl Overhead to SR 101/ SR 20 junction, to SR 20. This redesignation will provide a link from SR 20 to SR 101 and maintain route connectivity as required by the Streets and Highway Code, State Highway System, Section 320.

On July 19, 1945, the California Highway Commission adopted SR 101 as a freeway. SR 101 is on the Freeway and Expressway System and is part of the National Highway System. It is functionally classified as a principal arterial.

In northern California, and in particular the Willits area, SR 101 is a major north-south route serving an increasingly heavy commuter, recreational, and commercial traffic demand. Both interregional and local traffic must share the facility resulting on high levels of congestion. Lack of access control contributes to a total collision rate approximately 1.35 times the statewide average for similar facilities. The new route adoption and subsequent freeway construction for this segment of SR 101 will improve safety, reduce traffic congestion within the city, and improve the level of service for interregional traffic. The Department's recommendation for the route adoption (Resolution HRA 08-01) is under item 2.3a.(1).

SR 20 begins in Mendocino County at SR 1 near Fort Bragg traversing to SR 101 at Willits and resumes further south from SR 101 ending at SR 80 near Emigrant Gap in Nevada County. On June 19, 1957, the California Highway Commission adopted the western portion of SR 20 as a State Highway. In 1963, the last 0.5 mile portion of this route in the city of Willits was realigned and the route was extended past the existing SR 101 alignment to a newly adopted route for a future SR 101. On February 27, 1963, the California Highway Commission adopted this portion of SR 20. Due to lack of funds and other concerns, SR 20 and SR 101 along the new alignments were never constructed. The request to rescind this portion of SR 101 is under item 2.3a.(1).

SR 20, through the city of Willits, is a two-lane conventional highway with no access control and is classified as a minor arterial.

Entering the project from the south, the portion of existing SR 101 to be redesignated as SR 20, serves the sparsely developed area as a two-lane conventional highway. In Willits, as commercial development intensifies just north of the intersection with Baechtel Road, SR 101 increases to a four-lane conventional highway with a two-way left turn lane for about 0.9 miles. From this location to the intersection with SR 20, SR 101 has two lanes southbound and one northbound, plus a two-way left turn lane.

A project report recommending construction of a four-lane freeway facility on SR 101 to bypass the City of Willits and the redesignation of the former SR 101 segment to SR 20 was approved on December 15, 2006. The Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act and California Environmental Quality Act and was approved by the Commission on July 26, 2007.

Attachments:

Resolution HRR 08-01

Route Redesignation Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**Highway Route Redesignation Resolution**  
**1-Men-20 PM R33.1/R35.9**

**Resolution HRR 08-01**

**WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) in Resolution HRA 08-01 has selected, adopted, and determined the location of that segment of State Highway Route 101, from 0.1 miles south of East Hill Road to 1.8 miles south of Reynolds Highway, in Mendocino County, and officially designated it as 1-Men-101, a freeway; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Commission in Resolution HRA 08-01 has, by adopting the new location for portion of State Highway Route 101 freeway, also rescinded a portion of the previous location for the State Highway Route 101 freeway adopted on January 11, 1963, from 0.1 miles south of East Hill Road to 1.2 miles north of Reynolds Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest to provide continuity for State Highway Route 20 as described in the Streets and Highways Code, State Highway System, Section 320.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby redesignate a portion of State Highway Route 101, from 0.3 miles east of Haehl Overhead to the existing State Highway Route 101/20 junction in Mendocino County, to State Highway Route 20 and officially designate it as 1-Men-20, a conventional highway, as said location is shown on the Redesignation map; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by this Commission that the effective date of redesignation shall be the date the Commission approves this resolution.

