

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 30 - July 1, 2010

Reference No.: 2.3b.(1)
Action item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Timothy Craggs
Chief Division of Design
(Interim)

Subject: NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 06-KER-99 PM 18.5
RESOLUTION S-743

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are New Public Road Connection Resolution S-743 and a route location map for State Route (SR) 99. The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission approve the resolution and map authorizing a new public road connection at Hosking Avenue to SR 99 in the city of Bakersfield, county of Kern.

ISSUE:

The City of Bakersfield has requested approval of a new public road connection to SR 99. 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 as an interchange to SR 99 in the city of Bakersfield, county of Kern, at Post Mile 18.5.

Recommended by: _____
RICHARD D. LAND
Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The City of Bakersfield, in cooperation with the Department, is proposing to replace the existing Hosking Avenue overcrossing with a new interchange and create a new public road access to SR 99 at Hosking Avenue. The construction of a new interchange at Hosking Avenue will improve the operations of the adjacent interchanges and arterial roads by providing existing traffic a new point of direct access to SR 99. This new interchange will also support planned development and growth in the southwest area of Bakersfield.

On November 26, 1957, the California Highway Commission adopted SR 99 as a freeway within the project limits. SR 99 is part of the Freeway/Expressway system and a major route through the San Joaquin Valley. Since this region is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world, it is critical to the economic vitality of California. SR 99 is part of the National Highway System and is functionally classified as a principal arterial in urban areas. It is also part of the National Network for large trucks under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act. The Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan identifies it as an Intermodal Corridor of Economic Significance and a State High Emphasis Focus Route.

Hosking Avenue is an existing 2-lane overcrossing located approximately 6 miles south of downtown City of Bakersfield. No SR 99 access is currently provided at this location. Through the project area, SR 99 is a 6-lane freeway. Three miles north of Hosking Avenue, SR 99 widens to an 8-lane freeway through the City center. The adjacent interchanges, Panama Lane to the north and SR 119 (Taft Highway) to the south are major east-west arterials through Bakersfield.

The Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan states that southwest Bakersfield will have significant growth in residential, commercial, and industrial development in the near future. This new development will convert this area from a rural to an urban environment and greatly increase current traffic volumes, which are expected to more than double by the year 2020. A resolution adopting a Negative Declaration and incorporating the Hosking Avenue interchange into the General Plan Amendment / Specific Plan Line was approved by the Bakersfield City Council on November 17, 2004.

The proposed project includes the construction of a spread diamond interchange with two-loop on-ramps to SR 99 and replacing the existing 2-lane Hosking Avenue overcrossing with a new 6-lane structure. Upgrading the existing Hosking Avenue overcrossing to a 6-lane facility will be consistent with planned local improvements and will match the City's 6-lane major arterial standard cross section. Other City and developer-initiated projects both east and west of the interchange will widen Hosking Avenue concurrently with this proposed project.

Without this interchange, area development is expected to overload the existing traffic capacity of the adjacent local arterial roads, as well as the adjacent interchanges north and south of Hosking Avenue. The City of Bakersfield and the Department agree that current traffic operations at the adjacent interchanges have already reached unacceptable levels of service

during peak periods. Since these interchanges are key components of important local and regional routes, maintaining a satisfactory level of service is a priority. Widening the adjacent interchanges and the arterials between them would not adequately accommodate the regional traffic demand without significant impacts on the environment and community.

The new Hosking Avenue interchange will provide better access to SR 99 for residential development in the southwest quadrant of the interchange, currently under construction, and for the proposed large commercial development in the northeast quadrant. The southeast quadrant of the interchange is vacant and zoned for residential. Construction of the Hosking Avenue interchange will lessen future traffic demand at the adjacent interchanges and local arterial intersections.

The most recent Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Destination 2030, was adopted by the Kern Council of Governments Board on May 17, 2007, and covers the 2007 to 2030 planning horizon. The Hosking Avenue project is part of this newly adopted RTP.

Kern County's population is expected to reach 1.35 million in 2030 and to increase to 2.1 million by 2050. The 2035 traffic forecast for the Hosking interchange build alternative indicates that improvements of levels of service at SR 99 mainline and adjacent interchanges will be modest. It is assumed that the capacity freed by the Hosking interchange will be backfilled with the increased traffic demands due to growth in the area. Furthermore, traffic operations at the neighboring arterial intersections are expected to significantly improve.

The Initial Study /Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) with Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Finding of No Significant Impact was approved by the Department on March 30, 2010. This study satisfies the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The IS/EA with MND is submitted for Commission approval as a concurrent environmental action under Item 2.2c (12).

A project study report was approved by the Department in June 2006. The project report was approved by the Department on April 29, 2010. This project does not include any nonstandard design features; therefore, Fact sheets for Advisory and Mandatory Design Exceptions were not required.

Estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$27 million. The Right of Way cost is estimated at \$262,000. The City of Bakersfield intends to use local Transportation Development Funds (development impact fees) to finance this project based on the assumption that the developer in the northeast quadrant would participate in this project. However, the City of Bakersfield is also seeking both State and Federal Funds to supplement the local funds. Both CEQA and NEPA environmental documents have been prepared for this project so it can be eligible for either State or Federal funds.

A superseding freeway agreement was signed by the City of Bakersfield on June 9, 2010, and will be executed by the Department after Commission approval of the new connection.

Attachments:

Resolution S-743

Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection
06-Ker-99 PM 18.5**

Resolution S-743

WHEREAS, the City of Bakersfield has requested approval of a new public road connection on State Route 99 for Hosking Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration /Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact was approved on March 30, 2010, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act; and

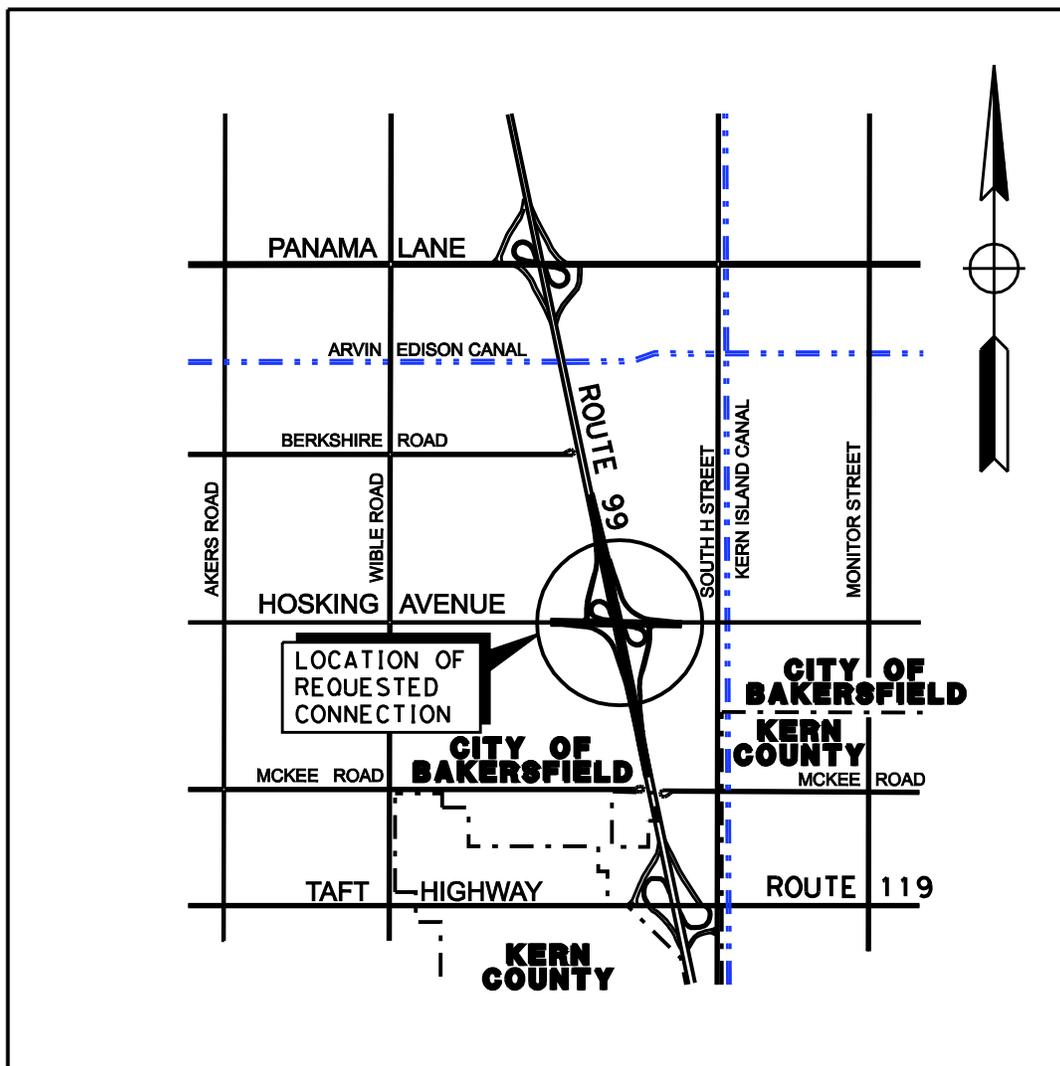
WHEREAS, the project will have impacts on the environment that will be mitigated; and

WHEREAS, the Project Report for new public road connection was approved by the Department on April 29, 2010.

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 State Route 99 at Hosking Avenue, Post Mile 18.5, in the county of Kern.



NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION 06-KER-99, pm 18.5



KERN COUNTY

LOCATION MAP