

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 11-12, 2011

Reference No.: 2.1b.(19)
Information Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Rachel Falsetti
Division Chief
Transportation Programming

Subject: **STIP AMENDMENT 10S-045**

SUMMARY:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) will request that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the requested State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendment at the next scheduled Commission meeting following the notice period.

ISSUE:

The Department and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) propose to amend the 2010 STIP to delete the Route 59 Widening project (PPNO 6688) and add the Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1A project (PPNO 5264A).

BACKGROUND:

In 1997, MCAG completed the Route 99 Major Investment Study (MIS) for the Merced/Atwater urbanized area. The MIS evaluated population, housing, and employment growth in the urbanized area through 2020. The existing transportation system was modeled and impacts created by future traffic were identified. In September 2001, the Department completed a Project Study Report-Project Development Support (PSR-PDS) that evaluated the realignment of State Route (SR) 59 north of SR 99 and included its conversion from a two-lane conventional highway to a four-lane divided expressway from 16th Street to Bellevue Road, a distance of 3.7 miles. In 2005, MCAG initiated the Environmental phase of the Atwater-Merced Expressway project, which will create an alternative to SR 59 from SR 140 to Bellevue Road around the city of Merced, realign and widen a portion of SR 99 from four to six lanes on an 8-lane right of way, and construct a new interchange to replace the Buhach Road interchange. In February 2009, the MCAG Board held a public hearing and certified the Final Environmental Impact Report. The MCAG Board selected a preferred alternative in March 2009.

The Route 59 Widening project (PPNO 6688) is programmed in the 2010 STIP with a total of \$14,600,000 in Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds. It would widen Route 59 from two to four lanes from Bear Creek to Cooper Avenue. It is proposed to delete this project because:

1. It would only widen 0.7 mile of the 3.7 miles that was proposed to be widened in the 2001 PSR-PDS,
2. The Route 59 Widening project has been delayed due to a lack of available funding to construct the entire project,

3. The Route 59 and Cooper Avenue Signalization project (PPNO 0288), which received a State-Local Partnership Program allocation in January 2011, will provide some of the benefits of this project,
4. The Atwater-Merced Expressway project will achieve greater benefits.

It is envisioned that SR 59 will be relinquished to the City of Merced and Merced County when the Atwater-Merced Expressway is completed. To cover expenditures through closeout, \$1,918,000 will remain programmed to the Environmental phase.

The Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1A project (PPNO 5264A) will realign and widen a portion of SR 99 from four to six lanes on an 8-lane right of way, and construct a new interchange to replace the Buhach Road interchange. MCAG is using local funds to complete Plans, Specifications and Estimate (Design) and Right of Way Support. MCAG proposes to program \$11,882,000 of RIP funds for Right of Way in Fiscal Year 2011-12. The intent is to complete design and right of way acquisition for Phase 1A in time to use savings from Proposition 1B Route 99 Bond projects, if any, for construction. If Bond savings are not available, construction would be funded by local money and/or future RIP funds.

The changes proposed above are reflected in the following tables.

DELETE:

Route 59 Widening project (PPNO 6688)

County	District	PPNO	EA	Element	Const. Year	PMBack	PMAhead	Route/Corridor					
Merced	10	6688	0E590	CO	2012-13	15.2	15.9	59					
Implementing Agency: (by component)	PA&ED	Caltrans				PS&E	Caltrans						
	R/W	Caltrans				CON	Caltrans						
RTPA/CTC:	Merced County Association of Governments												
Project Title:	Route 59 Widening												
Location	In the city of Merced, from Bear Creek to Cooper Avenue.												
Description:	Widen to 4 lanes.												
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)													
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp	CON Supp
RIP													
Existing	14,600	1,850		1,990	10,760			1,100	10,100	1,850	650	240	660
Change	(12,682)	68		(1,990)	(10,760)			(1,100)	(10,100)	68	(650)	(240)	(660)
Proposed	1,918	1,918		0	0			0	0	1,918	0	0	0
Total													
Existing	14,600	1,850		1,990	10,760			1,100	10,100	1,850	650	240	660
Change	(12,682)	68		(1,990)	(10,760)			(1,100)	(10,100)	68	(650)	(240)	(660)
Proposed	1,918	1,918		0	0			0	0	1,918	0	0	0

ADD:

Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1A project (PPNO 5264A)

County	District	PPNO	EA	Element	Const. Year	PM Back	PM Ahead	Route/Corridor					
Merced	10	5264A	0G440	CO	2015-16	19.3	20.9	99					
Implementing Agency: (by component)	PA&ED	MCAG				PS&E	MCAG						
	R/W	MCAG				CON	MCAG						
RTPA/CTC:	Merced County Association of Governments												
Project Title:	Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1A												
Location	Near Atwater, from 1.2 miles south of Buhach Road to 0.33 miles north of Buhach Road.												
Description:	Widen to 6 lane freeway including demolition of Buhach Road interchange & construction of a new interchange.												
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)													
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15+	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp	CON Supp
RIP													
Existing	0			0				0					
Change	11,882			11,882				11,882					
Proposed	11,882			11,882				11,882					
Local Funds (RTIF)													
Existing	0	0	0							0	0	0	
Change	7,477	3,277	4,200							3,277	3,700	500	
Proposed	7,477	3,277	4,200							3,277	3,700	500	
Local Funds (Value of property dedications)													
Existing	0			0				0					
Change	750			750				750					
Proposed	750			750				750					
Future Need													
Existing	0						0		0				0
Change	54,240						54,240		47,700				6,540
Proposed	54,240						54,240		47,700				6,540
Total													
Existing	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Change	74,349	3,277	4,200	12,632			54,240	12,632	47,700	3,277	3,700	500	6,540
Proposed	74,349	3,277	4,200	12,632			54,240	12,632	47,700	3,277	3,700	500	6,540