

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: October 26-27, 2011

Reference No.: 2.3b.
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry Abbott
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 7-LA -405 PM 11.0**
RESOLUTION S-749

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-749 and map authorizing a new public road connection at Lenardo Drive to State Route (SR) 405, in the city of Carson, in the county of Los Angeles.

ISSUE:

The Department requests approval of a new public road connection to SR 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 Acting Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection to SR 405 at Post Mile (PM) 11.0 in the city of Carson, in the county of Los Angeles.

Recommended by: _____
ROBERT PIEPLOW
Acting Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Department are proposing to modify the Avalon Boulevard/Interstate 405 (I-405) interchange in the city of Carson to provide access to the approved development of the Carson Marketplace Project in the southwest quadrant of this interchange. The modifications to this interchange include the southerly extension of Lenardo Drive over the Torrance Lateral Channel to connect to Avalon Boulevard and the realignment of the southbound I-405 on and off ramps to begin and end at Lenardo Drive. This break in access control requires the approval of a new connection by the California Transportation Commission. The proposed improvements support the additional access needs of the Carson Marketplace Project and also address growing traffic volumes in the vicinity.

The Avalon Boulevard interchange is located in the city of Carson, in Los Angeles County, between the Main Street and the Carson Street interchanges along I-405. I-405 has 12 lanes north of Avalon Boulevard and 10 lanes south of Avalon Boulevard. Traffic in the southbound direction is served by a loop on-ramp and a diagonal off-ramp in the southwest quadrant of the interchange. In the northbound direction the interchange is a half diamond. Avalon Boulevard is a major thoroughfare through the City of Carson with four to six lanes serving primarily residential, commercial, and light industrial traffic demands.

A 2006 traffic analysis showed the Avalon Boulevard/I-405 interchange operating at Level of Service (LOS) D during both the AM and PM peak hours. The analysis of the existing freeway mainline segments show that northbound I-405 from Avalon Boulevard to Main Street operates at LOS E during the AM peak hour, and southbound I-405 from Main Street to Carson Street operates at LOS E during the PM peak hour.

During a three-year study period between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2008, it was found that the total accident rate on I-405, including the Avalon Boulevard on- and off-ramps but excluding southbound I-405 from Avalon Boulevard to Main Street, was well below the statewide average. The accident rate on southbound I-405 from Avalon Boulevard to Main Street was approximately 10 percent higher than the statewide average.

In February 2006, the City of Carson approved the development of the Carson Marketplace Project (formerly known as Metro 2000 Mall Project and recently renamed to Boulevards at South Bay), in the southwest quadrant of the Avalon Boulevard interchange. The project is a 168-acre mixed-use development consisting of neighborhood commercial, regional commercial, commercial recreation/entertainment, restaurant, hotel, and residential development. The proposed interchange improvements were identified as a mitigation measure in the Traffic Impact Analysis of the Environmental Impact Report for the development.

The existing northbound off-ramp currently does not allow traffic to access southbound Avalon Boulevard. Under the existing interchange configuration, northbound I-405 traffic attempting to access the Marketplace would be required to proceed northbound on Avalon Boulevard to Del Amo Boulevard, a circuitous route with 1.8 miles in adverse travel, where capacity limitations may exist in the future. Alternatively, the Marketplace generated traffic destined to or originating from the

south would need to use Main Street, requiring an additional travel distance of 2.2 miles over the proposed improvements.

Southbound I-405 traffic would similarly be required to travel northward along Avalon Boulevard to Del Amo Boulevard, an increase in travel distance of 1.8 miles. Alternatively, since there is no I-405 southbound off-ramp or I-405 northbound on-ramp at Main Street, the Carson Marketplace generated traffic destined to or originating from the north would be required to access the Marketplace from Interstate 110, a travel distance increase of 0.2 miles through intersections, which are projected to be operating at capacity in the near future.

The proposed interchange modification would extend the existing Lenardo Drive south from the proposed Carson Marketplace over the Torrance Lateral Channel to Avalon Boulevard. The existing southbound I-405 on- and off-ramps, located between the Torrance Lateral Channel and Avalon Boulevard, will be realigned and widened. A new two-lane southbound on-ramp will be constructed east of Avalon Boulevard and across from Lenardo Drive. The existing northbound off-ramp will be widened from one to three lanes at the terminus to increase storage capacity and to accommodate left turns. The northbound on-ramp will also be widened to increase capacity and accommodate two left-turn lanes from northbound Avalon Boulevard. The existing Avalon Boulevard structure will be widened and repaved.

The City of Carson prepared a Project Study Report, which was approved by the Department on June 10, 1996. The Federal Highway Administration provided their approval for the modified access on April 3, 1996. A Supplemental Project Study Report was approved on March 19, 2003.

The Department prepared a Project Report and it was approved on July 16, 2009. A public hearing was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. Fact sheets for nonstandard advisory design features were approved on April 25, 1996 and June 25, 2009. Fact sheets for nonstandard mandatory design features were approved on April 25, 1996, January 9, 2003 and March 11, 2003. The Negative Declaration and Finding of No Significant Impact were approved on March 18, 2009 and are scheduled to be approved by the Commission by a concurrent action.

The Avalon Boulevard/I-405 Improvement Project is identified in the SCAG 2008 Regional Transportation Plan adopted on May 8, 2008. Further, this project is currently programmed in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

The estimated cost of the proposed project is \$24,707,000. This project is proposed to be funded from the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act funds in the amount of \$4,800,000. The balance of the funding (\$19,907,000) will be provided by the Carson Redevelopment Agency.

A superseding freeway agreement was adopted by the City of Carson on July 5, 2011. This freeway agreement will be executed by the Department after Commission approval of the new connection.

Attachments
Resolution S-749
Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection
7-LA-405 PM 11.0**

Resolution S-749

WHEREAS, the City of Carson has requested approval of a new public road connection on State Route 405 for Lenardo Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study (Negative Declaration)/ Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact was approved on March 18, 2009, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act; and

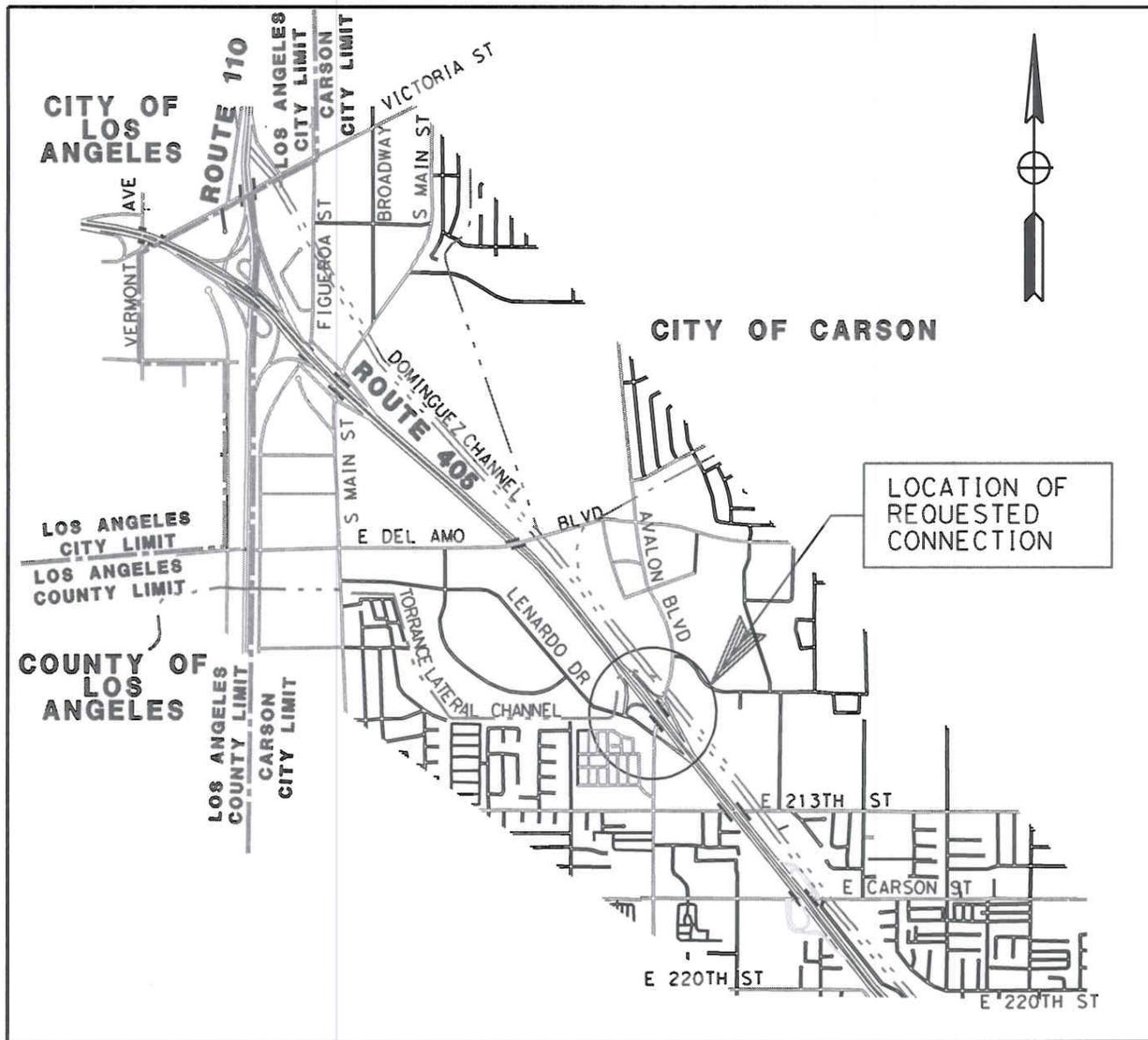
WHEREAS, the project will not have significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, a Project Report to construct a new interchange was approved by the California Department of Transportation on July 16, 2009.

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 405 at Lenardo Drive, Post Mile 11.0, in the county of Los Angeles.



NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION 07-LOS ANGELES-405



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LOCATION MAP