

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: December 4-5, 2019

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.3a., Action Item

Prepared By: Janice Benton
Chief, Division of Design

Subject: RESCISSION, 05-MON-101 PM R91.9/101.32, 05-SBT-101 PM 0.0/2.9
RESOLUTION NIU 19-01

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Notice of Intent to Consider Rescinding Freeway Adoption Resolution NIU 19-01 and map authorizing a rescission of a portion of the freeway adoption for US Highway Route 101 in the Counties of Monterey and San Benito?

RECOMMENDATION:

The procedures for recycling, notifying the public of the Commission's intention to consider rescinding a freeway route adoption, and disposing of acquired right-of-way were established by the Commission in Resolution No. G-15, adopted on November 17, 1978, and amended on February 29, 1980. According to the Resolution, the recycling process cannot be initiated without consent from the Commission. The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission approve Resolution NIU 19-01 to initiate recycling procedures to consider rescinding a portion of the freeway adoption for US Highway Route 101 in the counties of Monterey from Post Mile (PM) R91.9 to 101.32 and San Benito from PM 0.0 to 2.9 in accordance with the recommendation of the Department's Chief Engineer. With the Commission's approval of Resolution NIU 19-01, the Department will notify all affected local, regional, and State agencies of the rescission proposal and ask the agencies for any additional pertinent information that might be helpful to the Commission in making a final decision.

Recommended by:

CORY BINNS
Acting Chief Engineer

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to enhance California's economy and livability"*

BACKGROUND:

The Department, in cooperation with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), Monterey County, San Benito Council of Governments (SBCOG), and San Benito County, recommends the Commission approve the rescission of a portion of the 1964 Route Adoption for the unconstructed freeway alignment between Espinosa Road and State Route (SR) 156 in Monterey and San Benito Counties. The TAMC, SBCOG, and San Benito County have confirmed the adopted route is no longer part of any local or regional plans and it is appropriate for the Department to rescind the unconstructed portion of the freeway alignment. Once the route rescission is approved, the Department's responsibility is to dispose of the excess land.

US Highway Route 101 (formerly Legislative Route Number 2) was added to the State Highway System in the 1909 First Bond Act from San Francisco to San Diego, then added to the California Freeway & Expressway System in 1959. US Highway Route 101 is a primary north-south link in the California State Highway Network, serving regional and interregional traffic. The route is part of the interregional road system and is the key coastal link between the two major metropolitan regions of Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Within District 5, US Highway Route 101 is a major arterial providing access to urban areas and the agricultural production areas of the Salinas Valley. It also serves recreational trips associated with the Monterey Peninsula, the Pacific Coast, and the Los Padres National Forest. For residents in and around Prunedale, a census-designated place in Monterey County, it provides the only major arterial for the community. Other mobility purposes served include business, government, recreation, tourism, and daily living, including the journey-to-work. US Highway Route 101 is functionally classified as a Principal Arterial and is part of the National Highway System.

Deficiencies on US Highway Route 101 in the Prunedale area were recognized in the 1960s when a project was initiated to improve the corridor by constructing a new alignment that bypassed the community of Prunedale. On June 15, 1964, the Department's State Highway Engineer made a recommendation to the California Highway Commission (CHC) to adopt the US Highway Route 101 freeway route. The Route Adoption was passed by the CHC resolution on June 24, 1964.

In April 1973, the Prunedale Bypass Project (PBP) was in the final design phase when it was determined that federal funding could not be secured, and the project was delayed indefinitely. In the late 1980s, the PBP was re-initiated from a Measure B sales tax but was challenged and overturned in court and lack of funding again halted the PBP. As a result, in 2015, the Prunedale Improvement Project (PIP) completed a series of operational and safety improvements such as upgrading the existing four-lane facility to partially access controlled with construction of ten miles of median barrier, two new interchanges, and an overcrossing. The PIP was considered to be Phase 1 of conversion to a full access controlled freeway. Phase 2 was envisioned as the Prunedale Freeway on either the existing alignment or on the 1964 adopted bypass alignment.

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As of 2019, the Phase 2 project is no longer identified in the TAMC Regional Transportation Plan. Similarly, for San Benito County, there are no local or regional planning studies existing or underway that would have a bearing on existing route adoption. Ultimately, there is little likelihood for any construction to occur on the unconstructed portions of the adopted route from the affected agencies; therefore, rescission is appropriate.

Rescission of the unconstructed freeway adoption for US Highway Route 101 from Espinosa Road to SR 156 from the State Highway System will allow the sale of excess lands. The unneeded right-of-way will make available excess land allowing for further community development, promoting economic growth, and relieving the Department from ongoing maintenance costs, including weed abatement and public dumping, and liability concerns.

With the Commission's approval of Resolution NIU 19-01, the Department will notify all affected local and regional agencies of the rescission proposal and ask the agencies for any additional pertinent information that might be helpful to the Commission in making a final decision. The Department will also notify the State Clearinghouse so that other State agencies may be notified. Following a 60-day comment period, a follow-up meeting will be schedule with the Commission to present the Department's recommendation for final disposition.

Attachments:

Resolution NIU 19-01
Location Map

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Notice of Intent to Consider Rescinding Freeway Adoption

05-Mon-101 PM R91.9/101.32

05-SBt-101 PM 0.0/2.9

Resolution NIU 19-01

WHEREAS, a location for US Highway Route 101 was adopted and declared a freeway on June 24, 1964, in Monterey and San Benito Counties between Espinosa Road and the Santa Clara County Limit Line; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the aforementioned freeway from Espinosa Road to State Route (SR) 156 is not likely to be constructed as a freeway within the foreseeable future because of lack of local support and funding; and

WHEREAS, retention of the freeway adoption may not be desirable and would subject the California Transportation Commission (Commission) to possible future expense for acquisition and maintenance of property or future expense for acquisition of property on a hardship basis; and

WHEREAS, there is excess rights of way to dispose of.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby authorize and direct the Department of Transportation to give public notice of the Commission's intention to consider rescinding the freeway adoption of US Highway Route 101 in the Counties of Monterey and San Benito, on the portion of US Highway Route 101 from Espinosa Road to SR 156, as shown on the US Highway Route 101 Rescission Map, and to give notice to local and regional agencies, and other affected State agencies, of such intention; and agencies so notified are to be requested to furnish within 60 days any additional information that the Commission should have prior to final consideration of Rescission for the portion of US Highway Route 101 Freeway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the existing location of US Highway Route 101 between SR 156 and the Santa Clara County Limit line shall be retained and unaffected by this action.

PRUNEDALE AREA RESCISSION MAP

Santa Cruz
County

Santa Clara
County

Freeway Adopted
June 24, 1964

Route Adopted On
Existing Alignment

PM 2.9

101

156

156

PM 0.0

PM 101.32

San Benito
County

Monterey
County

Unconstructed Portions
To Be Rescinded

156

PM R91.9

Freeway Adopted
April 19, 1950

183

101

Freeway Rescission in
Monterey and San Benito
County

Location Map

The location map shows the state of California with county boundaries. A yellow shaded area in the central coast highlights Monterey and San Benito counties. A north arrow is located in the top right corner of the map.