

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: December 4-5, 2019

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.3b., Action Item

Prepared By: Janice Benton, Chief
Division of Design

Subject: NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 08-RIV-215 PM R29.4
RESOLUTION S-764

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-764 and maps authorizing a new public road connection to Interstate 215 (I-215) at Placentia Avenue, Post Mile R29.4, in the city of Perris in Riverside County?

RECOMMENDATION:

The City of Perris, in cooperation with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), has requested approval of a new public road connection to I-215. Pursuant to section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway or controlled access highway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto. It is recommended that the Commission approve the resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the California Department of Transportation (Department) Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection to I-215 at Placentia Avenue, Post Mile R29.4.

Recommended by:

CORY BINNS
Acting Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The City of Perris, in cooperation with the RCTC, proposes to construct a new public road connection to I-215 at Placentia Avenue in the city of Perris in Riverside County. The proposed new connection will provide a facility that efficiently serves future operational needs, reduces traffic congestion on parallel roadways, and reduces overall travel time in the vicinity of the study area, which is between the adjacent interchanges of Cajalco Road/Ramona Expressway to the north and Nuevo Road to the south.

I-215 was declared to be a freeway by Resolution of the California Highway Commission on February 14, 1951. I-215 is a north-south interstate highway that begins at its southerly junction with Interstate 15 (I-15) in the city of Murrieta in Riverside County and terminates at its northerly junction with I-15 in the community of Devore in San Bernardino County. The total length of I-215 is 55 miles, and it ranges from four to seven mixed-flow lanes, which includes one truck ascending lane. I-215 serves significant volumes of commuters and goods movement. Freight traffic along the corridor consists of truck traffic between San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside County. Freight traffic serves distribution centers located along the corridor and March Air Reserve base. I-215 is a "High Emphasis Route," as it is a part of the National Highway System, and it is on the Strategic Highway Corridor Network under the Federal Aid Surface Transportation Program.

The segment of I-215 in the vicinity of the new connection lies on flat terrain with a longitudinal profile grade ranging from 0.5 percent to 1.2 percent, has a 46-foot wide median, six 12-foot wide lanes, a 10-foot wide inside shoulder, and a 10-foot wide outside shoulder.

The I-215/Placentia Avenue Interchange was originally proposed in the planning stages of the I-215 corridor in the late 1980s, and right-of-way was purchased for a future interchange when operational needs and local development justified its construction. A grade separated overcrossing was constructed at Placentia Avenue as part of the original I-215 corridor project. The interchange was also contemplated as part of RCTC's Mid County Parkway (MCP) project, which began development in 2005. The Project Study Report for the MCP between I-15 in the city of Corona and State Route 79 near San Jacinto was approved on December 29, 2004. In May 2008, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) sent a letter to the Department stating acceptability with conditional approval of the original New Connection Report.

Public scoping meetings were held in late 2004, and three public information meetings were held in late October 2008. The Revised Draft Project Report was approved on January 18, 2013. On February 20, 2013, the public was informed of the decision to reduce the length of the corridor to focus improvements where the need was the greatest, between I-215 and State Route 79, in an open-house style public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement. On April 8, 2015, the Riverside County Transportation Commission adopted the Final Environmental Impact Report, and FHWA

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to enhance California's economy and livability"*

approved the Final Environmental Impact Statement on April 15, 2015. The Final Project Report was approved by the Department on April 16, 2015. On August 17, 2015, FHWA signed the Record of Decision. FHWA provided the final approval of the New Connection Report for the change in Interstate access on December 16, 2016. A re-validation under the California Environmental Quality Act was completed and RCTC concurred on July 11, 2018, and a re-evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act was completed and FHWA concurred on July 16, 2018. The Commission accepted the Final Environmental Impact Report and approved the project for future consideration of a new public road connection and funding on June 26, 2019.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve local access to I-215 by adding an interchange at Placentia Avenue in the city of Perris to serve the growing cities of Perris, Hemet, San Jacinto, and the adjacent unincorporated areas of Riverside County. The proposed improvements include: (1) construction of a new interchange at Placentia Avenue and I-215 with northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps on the east and west sides of I-215 at Placentia Avenue; (2) relocation of the East Frontage Road; (3) widening of the Placentia Avenue bridge from two to six lanes between Harvill Avenue on the west and Indian Avenue on the east; (4) construction of drainage improvements; and (5) installation of new traffic signals on Placentia Avenue at Harvill Avenue, Indian Avenue, East Frontage Road, and at the ramp intersections.

The current construction funding for the project is \$46,475,000, including \$6,000,000 for construction management. Riverside County Measure A is funding \$39,433,000, and the SB 1 Local Partnership Program is funding \$7,042,000. The Funding for the right-of-way acquisition is \$25,900,000 from Measure A.

The General Plan for the City of Perris includes a future local service interchange at Placentia Avenue. RCTC has agreed to include the addition of local access at Placentia Avenue as part of the MCP project. Riverside County is also in favor of the interchange at I-215 and Placentia Avenue. There are no relinquishments as part of this proposal.

Superseding Freeway Agreements between the Department and Riverside County, as well as the Department and the City of Perris, have been approved by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the City of Perris City Council on June 18, 2019 and June 11, 2019, respectively. The superseding Freeway Agreements will be executed by the Department after the Commission's approval of the new public road connection.

Attachments:

Resolution S-764
Location Map
Vicinity Map

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CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection

8-RIV-215 PM R29.4

Resolution S-764

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department) and City of Perris jointly request approval of a new public road connection on Interstate 215 at Placentia Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Transportation Commission completed a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) on April 8, 2015, and confirmed that the FEIR remains valid on July 11, 2018 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Transportation Commission completed a National Environmental Protection Act re-validation on July 16, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Department approved a Project Report recommending the new public road connection to Interstate 215 on April 16, 2015; and

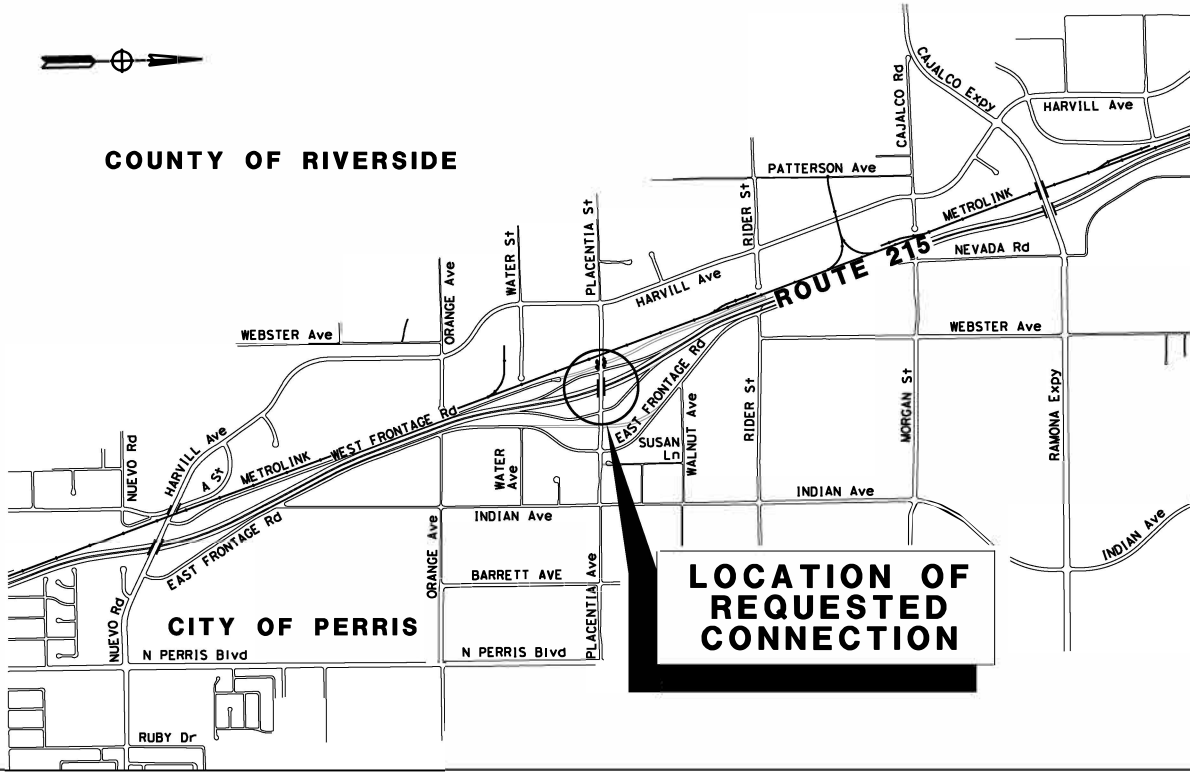
WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission accepted the FEIR and approved the project for future consideration of new public road connection and funding on June 26, 2019.

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 a new public road connection on Interstate 215 at Placentia Avenue at Post Mile R29.4, in the city of Perris, in Riverside County.

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION 08-RIV-215-PM R29.4



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



LOCATION MAP



Vicinity Map

