

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 24-25, 2020

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8v.(2), Action Item

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Subject: **REQUEST TO AMEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR
A LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED STIP PROJECT ON THE STATE HIGHWAY
SYSTEM, PER THE INTERIM TIMELY OF FUNDS POLICY
WAIVER 20-55**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve an amendment for previously approved time extension for the period of project allocation for the locally-administered State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) I-10 Eastbound Truck Climbing Lane project (PPNO 3009Q) on the State Highway System in San Bernardino County?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the Commission approve this amendment to extend the period of project allocation for the locally-administered STIP I-10 Eastbound Truck Climbing Lane project (PPNO 3009Q) on the State Highway System in San Bernardino County from 12 months to 20 months.

BACKGROUND:

This project is currently programmed for \$2,890,000 in Regional Improvement Program funds (RIP) for the Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) phase for the I-10 Eastbound Truck Climbing Lane project in Fiscal Year 2018-19.

At its May 2019, the Commission approved a 12-month time extension for the allocation of these RIP funds due to delays in completing the environmental phase. At that time the reason for the delay was due to a change in environmental document type from the originally assumed Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act to the Environmental Assessment type. This change required additional reviews, surveys and more extensive traffic and design studies for the truck traffic to better transition with the general traffic flow.

*“Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California’s economy and livability”*

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) is leading the preparation of environmental technical studies and the draft environmental document, with the Department providing oversight reviews, as the lead agency, under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The original allocation extension was approved by the Commission to allow additional time to complete an expanded environmental process and additional traffic and design studies from what were originally scoped for the project. In February 2020, staff from both SBCTA and the Department developed a plan and schedule to complete the PA&ED phase in time to request allocation at the June 2020 Commission meeting.

As of March 2020, the Noise Study Report (NSR) and corresponding Noise Abatement Decision Report (NADR) were the only outstanding technical studies remaining to be able to complete the draft environmental document for public review. The accelerated schedule was developed assuming multiple in-person workshops to address comments and finalize the reports as this was found to be an effective method for timely completion of reports in past projects.

However, with the shelter in place order issued by the Governor on March 19, due to COVID-19, completing this in time for a June 2020 allocation proved difficult. Although the project delivery team has been working hard to coordinate completion of the reports through regular teleconference meetings and email correspondence, remote coordination that is required due to COVID-19 impacts has had some limitations. To date, there have been multiple resubmittals for each report resulting in delays.

In addition, due to the number of pages and file size of the draft environmental document and the technical nature of the NSR, specifically requirements to model and process data, staff encountered challenges with hardware, software, and data access while working remotely.

Therefore, SBCTA is requesting an additional of 8 months, for a total of 20 months, for the period of allocation, through February 2021, for the allocation of \$2,890,000 in RIP funds programmed for the PS&E phase in 2018-19.

Under the Commission adopted Interim Use of Funds Policy, Resolution G-20-56, a local agency may request a time extension amendment to a previously approved time extension and to allow additional time for agencies to deliver (complete) each project milestone for up to 20 months.