

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: December 2-3, 2020

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.3a.(1), Action Item

Prepared By: Janice Benton, Chief
Division of Design

Subject: ROUTE ADOPTION, 06-KER-58 PM R34.4T/R48.8
RESOLUTION HRA 20-04

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the California Department of Transportation's (Department) request for a route adoption and transfer of highway location of State Route (SR) 58 as a State highway to a new alignment from Interstate (I) 5 to Coffee Road in Kern County?

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the Highway Route Adoption Resolution HRA 20-04 and the route location map for SR 58 in the county of Kern. As part of the SR 58 corridor improvements, the Department requests approval of a transfer of highway location of SR 58 as a State highway from its current location to a new proposed alignment from I-5 to Coffee Road. The Commission approved the Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding for the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) via Resolution E-18-30 during the March 2018 Commission meeting, and the Department signed a revalidation form on June 1, 2020. The Department approved the Route Transfer Report on October 15, 2020. It is recommended that the Commission approve the Highway Route Adoption resolution and location map in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer.

Recommended by: _____
MICHAEL D. KEEVER
Chief Engineer

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to enhance California's economy and livability"*

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this transfer of highway location (Transfer) is to establish a new alignment for a portion of SR 58 in Kern County. The City of Bakersfield (City), Kern County (County), and the Department are jointly proposing the route adoption of segments of the local roads known as Stockdale Highway and the Westside Parkway (WSP) into the State Highway System (SHS) as the new SR 58 alignment. The proposed Transfer consists of the adoption of a new parallel route approximately 2-3 miles south of the existing SR 58 alignment along the Stockdale Highway segment from I-5 to Heath Road and the WSP segment from Heath Road to the Coffee Road interchange, as well as the relinquishment of the superseded segments of SR 58 to the City and County within their respective jurisdictions, as shown on the attached vicinity map.

SR 58 was added to the SHS on September 5, 1933 by an approved County Board of Supervisors' resolution as part of the Breed Act; therefore, this route has never been officially adopted by the Commission. On a regional level, SR 58 provides an important link between the State's coastal region, agriculture and agricultural processing in the Central Valley, the Mojave Desert area, and I-40 and I-15. Within the project limits, SR 58 serves as a central hub for goods movement. From I-5 in Kern County to I-15 near the city of Barstow, SR 58 is designated for oversized trucks under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (STAA). SR 58 is a High-Emphasis, Focus, and Gateway route under the Interregional Road System (IRRS) and is part of the National Highway System. Recognized as a significant transportation gateway, SR 58 has planned improvements indicated in the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP). The Department's 2013 ITSP states that SR 58 between Heath Road and SR 99 should be improved to a 4- to 6-lane freeway. The Department's SR 58 Corridor System Management Plan identifies the SR 58 concept as a 4- to 6-lane conventional highway and a 6- to 8-lane freeway. This Transfer would be the first step to bring that concept to fruition. A concurrent action for the proposed freeway adoption of WSP from 0.3 miles east of Heath Road to Coffee Road is on this month's Commission agenda.

The need for an east-west transportation corridor through the City has been recognized and studied by local agencies, the Department, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Planning efforts started in the 1970s and continued through the 1980s. In 1973, the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) prepared the 1990 Transportation Plan and Program and the County prepared the Rosedale General Plan, each identifying the "Westside Freeway," now known as WSP, as a major circulation element. Studies for this transfer of highway location on the SR 58 corridor began in 1992 with a Tier 1 EIR/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In 2001, the Department, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, and the FHWA, as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency, approved the environmental document that evaluated two alignment alternatives for the corridor.

In December 2011, the City, County, and the Department agreed to transfer Stockdale Highway, WSP, and the Centennial Corridor into the SHS in phases to ultimately form a continuous SR 58 alignment from I-5 to SR 99 and to relinquish the current SR 58 to the City or County. The Centennial Corridor is the final segment of the proposed SR 58 corridor from

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I-5 to SR 99, linking WSP from Truxtun Avenue to SR 99 on a new freeway alignment, and is currently under construction with an anticipated completion within the next 2 years.

The construction of WSP was completed in April 2015. Due to work proposed on SR 99, the Department approved the City's Project Report and Final EIR/EIS for the Centennial Corridor Project on December 4, 2015. That environmental document cleared the route to be transferred into the SHS. In 2016, the Department began evaluating the current SR 58 between I-5 and SR 99 and the proposed Stockdale Highway and WSP routes to determine the feasibility of the route transfer. As a result, certain areas of WSP were found to need remediation before transfer into the SHS. Between 2017 and 2020, the City completed the required remediation work to the Department's satisfaction. Initial Site Assessments (ISAs) were conducted to document the current environmental conditions for the portions of Stockdale Highway and WSP to be adopted into the SHS. The Department's ISA review in 2018 revealed some areas on the WSP that required additional environmental remediation by the City. These areas on WSP are not included as part of this Transfer. The City is currently working with the Department and the Department of Toxic and Substance Control to satisfactorily remediate the areas so the Department may adopt the remaining portion of WSP into the SHS at a future date. The ISAs were updated in 2020. The 2015 Final EIR/EIS was revalidated in June 2020. A Route Transfer Report was prepared by the Department and approved on October 15, 2020.

The current SR 58 from I-5 to SR 99 is a 21-mile-long, 2- to 6-lane conventional highway along Blue Star Memorial Highway and Rosedale Highway with 12-foot-wide lanes, with outside shoulder widths of 0 to 8 feet, and inside shoulder widths of 0 to 2 feet. Besides a one-mile segment along SR 43, SR 58 is generally an east-west directional route. Along SR 58, there are over 300 driveways, 100 local road access points, and 20 stop-controlled or signalized intersections. A portion of SR 58 from Van Buren Place to Mohawk Street was relinquished to the City on March 28, 2012 by legislative enactment.

The current SR 58 between I-5 and SR 99 has several deficiencies (route discontinuity, congestion, and insufficient capacity for the City's projected growth) that require an expanded and more efficient facility. The feasibility of improving the current SR 58 to the concept facility is highly improbable and cost prohibitive due to the major constraints posed by existing utilities and commercial, retail, and residential land uses. The current SR 58 within the project limits experiences higher than average truck traffic, which significantly impacts local traffic. Residential and retail growth, local commuter travel, regional goods movement, and recreational through traffic cause significant congestion and delay during daytime hours.

The proposed SR 58 along Stockdale Highway from I-5 to Heath Road is a 9-mile-long, 2-lane road with shoulder widths varying from 5 to 7 feet and is located approximately 3 miles south of and parallels the current SR 58. Along WSP, the proposed SR 58 is a 6-mile-long, 4 to 6-lane freeway with 12-foot lane widths and 10-foot shoulder widths that is located approximately 2 miles south of and parallels the current SR 58.

The new SR 58 alignment will improve the level of service and reduce the expected frequency of vehicular collisions due to fewer intersections and left-turn movements into businesses and

residences. The new SR 58 will provide better route continuity between I-5 and SR 99, improve local and interregional circulation and truck traffic, and provide a facility that can accommodate future growth. Furthermore, the Transfer will relieve the Department of ownership and maintenance responsibilities of an aging facility that does not meet current roadway design standards or the future traffic demands.

As part of the Transfer, once the route adoption is approved by the Commission, the Department will concurrently relinquish the superseded SR 58 to the City and County, within their respective jurisdictions. The Department and the City and County have executed relinquishment agreements for SR 58 within the Transfer limits. On October 1, 2020, the Department approved a \$12,100,000 pavement rehabilitation and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) facility upgrade project along SR 58, from SR 43 to 0.1 mile west of Allen Road, within the Transfer limits. To date, the Department has expended \$1,400,000 of the programmed funds. In lieu of completing the project, the Department agreed to pay the County the remaining project budget of \$10,650,000 as the cost of relinquishment and is the only cost to the Department associated with the Transfer. A separate concurrent action for the approval of funds transfer is on this month's Commission agenda.

The City held a public information meeting/open house on December 6, 2012 at the County office. The Draft EIR/EIS was circulated for review by agencies and members of the public in 2014. The Department and the City held a public hearing in the City on June 11, 2014. All comments from the public hearing and those received during the public review period were considered and addressed. The City and County provided resolutions authorizing the proposed Transfer and associated relinquishments on March 6, 2019 and July 14, 2020, respectively.

There are several concurrent actions associated with this Transfer that are being presented to the Commission on this month's agenda for their approval. This request is for the Transfer of Highway Location, an action item under Reference 2.3a.(1). Separate requests are being submitted for the Freeway Route Adoption, an action item under Reference 2.3a.(2), the relinquishment of three segments of the current SR 58 to the City and County within their respective jurisdictions, an action item under Reference 2.3c.(2), and the funds transfer from the Department to the County, an action item under Reference 2.5b.(4). All of these associated actions must be approved by the Commission for the Transfer to be approved. If any of the concurrent actions presented above are not approved, then the Transfer as a whole is not approved, and all prior associated approvals are nullified. The approval of both route adoption book items will allow for the execution of Freeway Agreements with the City and County.

Attachments:

Resolution HRA 20-04
Vicinity Map
Transfer of Highway Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Highway Route Adoption Resolution
06-KER-58 PM R34.4T/R48.8**

Resolution HRA 20-04

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department), the City of Bakersfield (City), and the County of Kern (County) jointly propose a transfer of State Route (SR) 58 location from its existing westerly alignment through the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern to a new facility south of the existing SR 58 location along Stockdale Highway and part of Westside Parkway in the City and County; and

WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement was signed on December 4, 2015 and a revalidation form, as an update to the environmental document, was signed on June 1, 2020; and

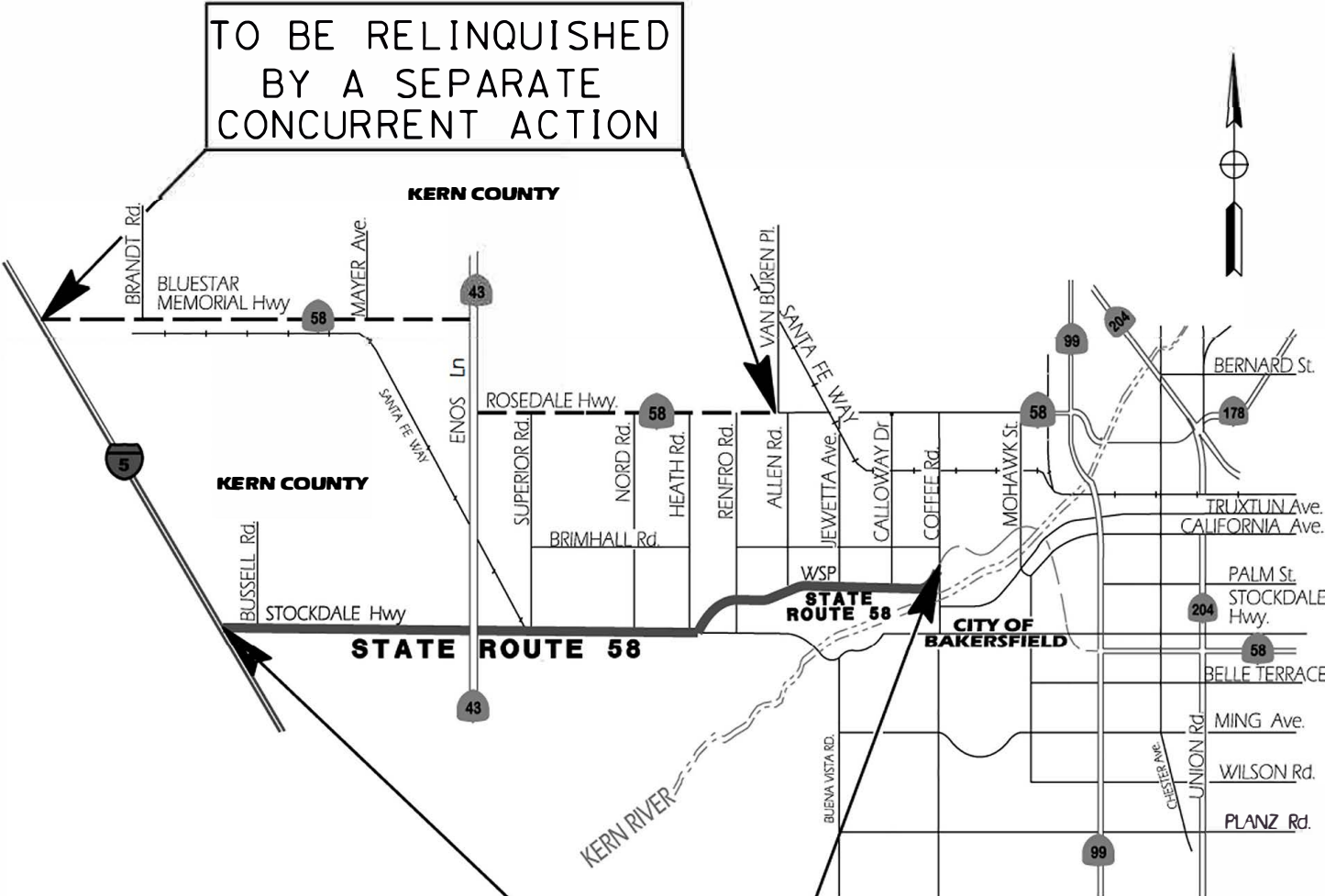
WHEREAS, the Route Transfer Report recommending the transfer of highway location was approved by the Department on October 15, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby select, adopt, and determine the location of that segment of State Highway Route 58 along Stockdale Highway and Westside Parkway from Interstate 5 to Coffee Road as a new alignment in Kern County, and officially designates it as 06-KER-58, a State Highway, as said location is shown on the Transfer of State Highway Location map submitted by Laura Gordon, Chief of Central Region Project Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superseded section of State Highway Route 58 will be relinquished to the City of Bakersfield and Kern County as depicted in the attached Transfer of State Highway Location map; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that such location of said State highway is for the best interest of the State.

VICINITY MAP



TO BE RELINQUISHED
BY A SEPARATE
CONCURRENT ACTION

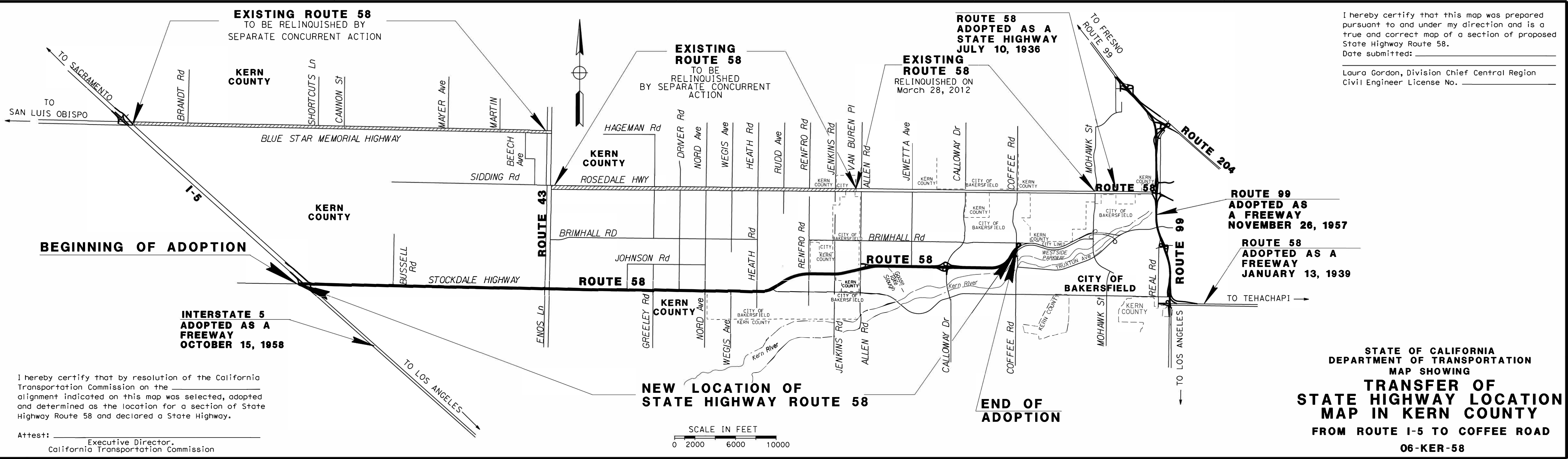
ROUTE TO BE
ADOPTED



LOCATION MAP

STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE ADOPTION 06-KER-58

PM R31.8T = PM R34.4T / R48.8



I hereby certify that this map was prepared pursuant to and under my direction and is a true and correct map of a section of proposed State Highway Route 58.
Date submitted: _____
Laura Gordon, Division Chief Central Region
Civil Engineer License No. _____

I hereby certify that by resolution of the California Transportation Commission on the _____ alignment indicated on this map was selected, adopted and determined as the location for a section of State Highway Route 58 and declared a State Highway.
Attest: _____
Executive Director,
California Transportation Commission