

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS  
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**CTC Meeting:** December 2-3, 2020

**From:** STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

**Reference Number:** 2.3a.(2), Action Item

**Prepared By:** Janice Benton, Chief  
Division of Design

**Subject:** **ROUTE ADOPTION, 06-KER-58 PM R43.6/R48.8**  
**RESOLUTION HRA 20-05**

### **ISSUE:**

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the California Department of Transportation's (Department) request for a route adoption of State Route (SR) 58 as a new freeway alignment from 0.3 miles east of Heath Road to Coffee Road in Kern County?

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the Highway Route Adoption Resolution HRA 20-05 and route location map for SR 58 in the county of Kern. The Department requests approval of a route adoption of SR 58 as a new freeway alignment from 0.3 miles east of Heath Road to Coffee Road as part of the SR 58 corridor improvements. 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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**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Bakersfield (City) and the Department are jointly proposing this highway route adoption to establish a freeway designation for a portion of SR 58 from 0.3 miles east of Heath Road to Coffee Road in Kern County, as shown on the attached vicinity map. This highway route adoption will enable SR 58 to partially fulfill its statutory designation of a freeway and expressway through this area in Kern County. Requests for the approval of the highway route adoption and transfer of State highway location, this highway route adoption as a freeway, and the relinquishment of the existing SR 58 facility are also being presented as concurrent actions on this month's Commission agenda.

SR 58 was added to the State highway System (SHS) on September 5, 1933 by an approved County Board of Supervisors' resolution as part of the Breed Act. 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 north-south and east-west 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 included as a High-Emphasis, Focus and Gateway route under the Interregional Road System (IRRS) and is part of the National Highway System. Recognized as a transportation gateway of major statewide significance, SR 58 has several planned improvements indicated in the Department's 2013 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) and the SR 58 Corridor System Management Plan, which states that SR 58 between Heath Road and SR 99 should be improved to a 6-lane freeway.

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.

Construction of WSP, which was intended to be a State highway, began in 2008 and 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 and this freeway adoption. In 2016, the Department began evaluating WSP 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), updated in 2020, were conducted to document the current environmental conditions for the portions of WSP to be

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adopted into the SHS. 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.

SR 58 from Heath Road to Van Buren Place is a 2-mile-long, 2-lane conventional highway with 12-foot-wide lanes, with outside shoulder widths from 0 to 8 feet, and inside shoulder widths from 0 to 2 feet. Along SR 58, there are numerous driveways, local road access points, and signalized intersections.

The current SR 58 between Heath Road and Van Buren Place has several deficiencies (route discontinuity, congestion, and not enough capacity for the City's projected growth) that require an expanded and more efficient facility. The feasibility of improving the current SR 58 to a freeway 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 freeway alignment along WSP is a 6-mile-long, 4 to 6-lane freeway with 12-foot lane widths and 10-foot shoulder widths, and is located approximately 1-2 miles south of the current SR 58.

The new SR 58 freeway adoption is expected to improve the level of service, improve local and interregional circulation and truck traffic, and provide a facility that can accommodate future growth. Further, 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.

The City provided a resolution authorizing the proposed Transfer and associated relinquishments on March 6, 2019.

There are several concurrent actions associated with the transfer of highway location that are being presented to the Commission on this month's agenda for their approval. This request is for the Freeway Route Adoption, an action item under Reference 2.3a.(2). Separate requests are being submitted for the Transfer of Highway Location, an action item under Reference 2.3a.(1), 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 this Highway Route Adoption to be approved. If any of the concurrent actions presented above are not approved, then the Transfer of Highway Location 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.

Attachments:

Resolution HRA 20-05  
Vicinity Map  
Freeway Route Adoption Map

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**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**Highway Route Adoption Resolution**  
**06-KER-58 PM R43.6/R48.8**

**Resolution HRA 20-05**

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department), and the City of Bakersfield (City), 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 part of Westside Parkway in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the portion of Westside Parkway is an access-controlled facility and has been constructed to freeway and expressway standards, and

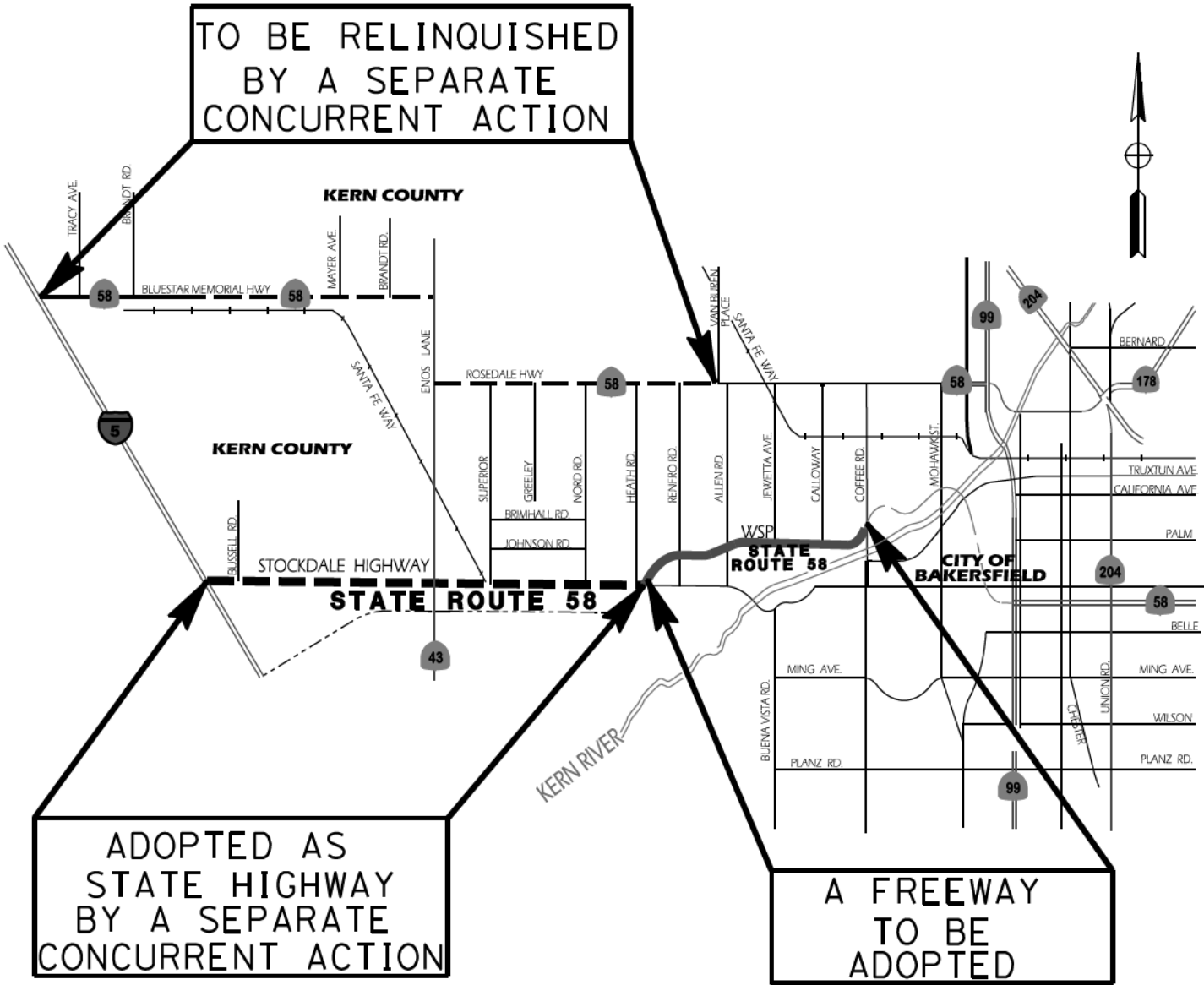
**WHEREAS**, the Final Environmental Impact Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement was signed on December 4, 2015 and a revalidation form, as an update to the environmental document, was signed on June 1, 2020; and

**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 Westside Parkway from 0.3 miles east of Heath Road to Coffee Road as a new alignment in Kern County, and officially designates it as 06-KER-58, a Freeway, as said location is shown on the Route Adoption map submitted by Laura Gordon, Chief of Central Region Project Development.

**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



**FREEWAY  
ROUTE ADOPTION**

**06-KER-58**

**PM R43.6 / R48.8**

**ROUTE 58  
ADOPTED AS  
STATE HIGHWAY  
BY A SEPARATE  
CONCURRENT ACTION**

**INTERSTATE 5  
ADOPTED AS A FREEWAY  
OCTOBER 15, 1958**

**BEGINNING  
OF ADOPTION**

**END  
OF ADOPTION**

**ROUTE 58  
ADOPTED AS A STATE HIGHWAY  
July 10, 1936**

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. \_\_\_\_\_

**ROUTE 99  
ADOPTED AS A  
FREEWAY  
NOVEMBER 26, 1957**

**ROUTE 58  
ADOPTED AS A  
FREEWAY  
JANUARY 13, 1939**

**ROUTE 58  
TO TEHACHAPI**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MAP SHOWING  
LOCATION OF  
STATE HIGHWAY  
IN KERN COUNTY  
FROM 0.3 MILES EAST OF  
HEATH ROAD TO COFFEE ROAD  
06-KER-58  
A FREEWAY**

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 freeway.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director.  
California Transportation Commission

