

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: March 21-22, 2024

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8c.(3), Action Item

Prepared By: James R. Anderson, Chief
Division of Financial Programming

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT COMPLETION FOR A
STATE-ADMINISTERED STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT, ON THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM, PER STIP GUIDELINES
WAIVER 24-32**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project completion for the State-Administered State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Tagus 6-Lane Widening (Combined) project (PPNO 6400G), in Tulare County, for the time period as identified in the attachment?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission extend the period of project completion for the State-Administered STIP Tagus 6-Lane Widening (Combined) project (PPNO 6400G), in Tulare County, for the time period as identified in the attachment.

BACKGROUND:

In August 2020, the Commission allocated \$73,451,000 in construction capital for the State-Administered STIP Tagus 6-Lane Widening (Combined) project (PPNO 6400G). This project was supposed to award by February 29, 2021; however, per the Interim Timely Use of Funds policy, the project was allowed 12 months to award from the time of allocation. Therefore, the project was awarded in April 2021. In accordance with the STIP Guidelines (Guidelines), the deadline to complete the Construction Contract Acceptance for projects awarded on April 26, 2021 is April 30, 2024. Because the Department will not meet this deadline, the Department is requesting a time extension to complete construction. The attachment shows the details of the project and the delays that have resulted in this time extension request.

*"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that
serves all people and respects the environment."*

Current Guidelines stipulate that the agency implementing a project request a time extension if the project will not be completed within 36 months after award. The Commission may approve waivers to the timely use of funds deadline one-time only for up to 20 months.

Attachment

“Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.”

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Completion for
State Transportation Improvement Program**

Project Number: 1
Applicant: Department of Transportation
County: Tulare County
District: 06
PPNO: 6400G
EA: 36024
Route: 99
Allocation Amount: \$73,451,000
Phase: CON/CON Support
Allocation Date: 08/12/2020
Allocation Resolution: FP-20-04
Award Date: 04/26/2021
Number of Months Requested: 8 Months
Extended Deadline: 12/31/2024
Department Recommendation: Support

Tagus 6-Lane Widening (Combined) project

The Department requests an 8-month time extension to complete the Construction (CON) phase of the Tagus 6-Lane Widening (Combined) project. The Department has experienced unexpected delays in completing the CON phase.

This project is located on State Route (SR) 99, near the City of Tulare, from Prosperity Avenue to south of Avenue 280. The project proposes to widen the roadway from four lanes to six lanes. The project has a deadline of April 30, 2024, to complete the Construction Contract Acceptance (CCA).

The construction delay is due to the unanticipated environmental permitting issues with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which occurred due to the project starting late from the contract approval, and material procurement issues associated with the pandemic. This led to the delay in starting work at the Packwood Creek Bridge. The contract documents required that the bridge widening on Packwood Creek be completed in the first stage of the project. In addition, the contract documents also stated that work was only to be done within the Packwood Creek Channel, which is operated by Tulare Irrigation District (TID), from September 1 to November 20 of any year, unless permission was granted by TID. However, the CDFW updated environmental permits were not cleared until well after the November 20, 2021 deadline. This prohibited the Department from gaining access to the Packwood Creek Channel to complete the work. The Department negotiated with TID to obtain access to the Channel. However, TID requested improvements to the Channel that were outside of the original scope of work and resulted in further permitting issues, which delayed the Department from accessing the channel until the September 1, 2022 date, which led to a delay of 10.5 months. The additional time is needed due to the loss of the construction season of 8 months. The Department has expedited the work throughout the project limits to minimize the Construction schedule.

Therefore, the Department is requesting an 8-month time extension to allow sufficient time to complete the CON phase and finalize the CCA from April 30, 2024 to December 31, 2024.