

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: December 4-5, 2025

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.2c.(5), Action Item

Prepared By: Jeremy Ketchum, Chief
Division of Environmental Analysis

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
RESOLUTION E-25-73A**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, approve attached Resolution E-25-73A?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission, as a responsible agency, approve attached Resolution E-25-73A.

BACKGROUND:

12-Ora-241, PM 33.6/39.1

12-Ora-91, PM R15.9/R18.9

08-Riv-91, PM R0.0/R0.6

Resolution E-25-73A

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR) and Addendum have been completed:

- SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Lanes Connector Project: State Route (SR) 241 and SR 91, in Orange and Riverside counties. Construct a tolled direct connector between SR 241 and the SR 91 Tolled Express Lanes from Orange County to the Riverside County line. (EA 0K970)

The project is located on SR 241, from Post Mile (PM) 33.6 to 39.1, and SR 91, from PM R15.9 to R18.9, in Orange County, and SR 91, from PM R0.0 to R0.6, in Riverside County.

The Department proposes to implement the build out of the Eastern Transportation Corridor (ETC), as approved in 1994. The overall objective of the ETC project was to accommodate traffic growth associated with planned and approved development in Orange County. The Department in cooperation with the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency proposes to construct a tolled direct connector between SR 241 and SR 91 Express Lanes. The project is locally funded. The total programmed amount, which includes Right of Way (Support and Capital) and Construction (Support and Capital) is \$461,414,000. Construction will begin in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Copies of the FSEIR and Addendum have been provided to Commission staff. The Commission accepted the FSEIR and approved the project for future consideration of funding on May 13, 2020, under Resolution E-20-40. Since the approval of the FSEIR, there have been changes to the project and an Addendum was prepared pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, the Addendum addresses design modifications and changes to the project scope and limits, resulting from the extension of median widening improvements approximately 3.2 miles farther south along northbound (NB) SR 241 to accommodate a fifth lane and reconstruction of the inside shoulder, as well as additional signage; a shift of the diverge point along NB SR 241 approximately 2.2 miles south to the Windy Ridge Toll Plaza area; adjustments to eastbound (EB) SR 91 overcrossing structures, columns, and walls; adjustment to the EB SR 91 express lanes convergence with the express lanes connector; the addition of an overlay to the roadway just east of westbound (WB) SR-91 to southbound (SB) SR 241 connector; and a reconfiguration of the existing third lane of the WB SR-91 to SB SR 241 connector to open to the left instead of the right. Changes to structures within the project limits include the widening of the Gypsum Canyon Road Undercrossing by approximately 80 feet to accommodate the realignment of EB SR 91 and the removal of a portion of the structure in the median of SR 91 to facilitate construction access; the widening of the Oak Canyon Wildlife Crossing and Southern California Edison Undercrossing by approximately 16 feet on the northbound side to accommodate the extended widening of NB SR 241; and the addition of three flyover structures to provide direct connection between SR 241 and the SR 91 express lanes. Changes to walls and signage within the project limits include a new total of 6 structural retaining walls and 11 standard retaining walls, with the modification of design for one structural wall resulting in a reduction of required right-of-way acquisition. Further, advanced warning signage on northbound SR 241 has been extended approximately 800 feet south of the Santiago Creek Bridge. Resources in the project area that may be impacted by the project include biological resources and paleontological resources. Mitigation measures, including implementing measures required from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Section 7 permitting, habitat restoration, and paleontological monitoring, will mitigate potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, no Subsequent FEIR is required for the project because new information and changes in circumstances, project description, impacts, and mitigation are not substantial and do not involve new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts. As a result, the Department completed an Addendum to the FSEIR pursuant to CEQA.

The Department has approved this project for construction. This approval and the Addendum will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the planning process.

Attachments

Attachment 1

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

12-Ora-241, PM 33.6/39.1

12-Ora-91, PM R15.9/R18.9

08-Riv-91, PM R0.0/R0.6

Resolution E-25-73A

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Lanes Connector Project: SR 241 and SR 91, in Orange and Riverside Counties. Construct a tolled direct connector between State Route 241 and the State Route 91 Tolled Express Lanes from Orange County to the Riverside County line. (EA 0K970)
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Addendum have been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Addendum; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment;
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for consideration of funding.

Attachment 2

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Transportation Commission
Attn: Cherry Zamora
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-4245

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title: SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Lanes Connector Project

1989010410	Smita Deshpande	(949) 279-8704
State Clearinghouse Number	Lead Agency Contact Person	Area Code/Telephone

Project Location (include county): State Route (SR) 241, from Post Mile (PM) 33.6 to 39.1, and SR 91, from PM R15.9 to R18.9, in Orange County. SR 91, from PM R0.0 to R0.6, in Riverside County.

Project Description: Construct a direct-connect structure between SR 241 and SR 91, which will accommodate two lanes: a single express lane connecting northbound SR 241 toll road to eastbound SR 91 Express Lanes, and a single express lane connecting westbound SR 91 Express Lanes to southbound SR 241 toll road.

This is to advise that the California Transportation Commission has approved the above described project on (Lead Agency/ Responsible Agency)
December 4-5, 2025, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project (will/ will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report, Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, and Addendum were prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures (were/ were not) made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan (was / was not) adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations (was / was not) adopted for this project.
6. Findings (were/ were not) made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The above identified document with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: Caltrans District 12, 1750 East 4th Street, Suite 100, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

TANISHA TAYLOR		Executive Director California Transportation Commission
<i>Signature (Public Agency)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>

Date received for filing at LCI:

Attachment 3



LEGEND

- Revised Project Limits for Final Design
- Project Limits 2019 Biological Opinion - Biological Survey Area

FIGURE 1



SR-241/SR-91 Express Lanes Connector Project
Project Location

SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Lanes Connector Project

SR 241, from post mile (PM) 33.6 to 39.1; SR 91, from PM R15.9 to R18.9, in Orange County; and SR 91, from PM R0.0 to R0.6, in Riverside County