

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 29-30, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.2c.(4), Action

Prepared By: Cherry Zamora
Associate Deputy Director

Published Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Approval of Project for Future Consideration of Funding – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Connect Coachella Project, Resolution E-26-09

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Connect Coachella Project (Project) in the City of Coachella in Riverside County and approve the Project for future consideration of funding.

Issue:

The City of Coachella (City) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Project. The Project is located on Avenue 48 from Dillon Road to Grapefruit Boulevard, Grapefruit Boulevard from Avenue 48 to Avenue 54, and Avenue 54 from Van Buren Street to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, in the City of Coachella in Riverside County. The Project includes construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The Project includes a 3.8-mile-long Class I bike path along Grapefruit Boulevard, and 3.2 miles of new Class II bike lanes on both the north and south sides of Avenue 54. A 0.08-mile Class I bike path extension is proposed on the south side of Avenue 48. The Project also includes new crosswalks, Americans with Disabilities Act-curb ramps, a new roundabout, right-turn slip lanes, triangular median dividers, striping, a new at-grade railroad crossing, and signage.

For all projects that are seeking funding through a program under the purview of the Commission, full compliance with CEQA is required. The Commission will not allocate funds to projects for design, right-of-way, or construction until the environmental document is complete, and the Commission has approved the environmentally cleared project for future funding consideration.

Background:

On May 20, 2024, the City adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and found that the Project would not have a significant impact on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures. On January 5, 2026, the City confirmed that the environmental document remains valid, there are no newly identified impacts or substantial increase in the severity of an impact requiring mitigation, and the environmental document is consistent with the Project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

Impacts that require mitigation measures in order to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils (paleontological resources), and tribal cultural resources.

Mitigation measures include conducting Burrowing Owl surveys, avoiding or relocating Burrowing Owls, scheduling construction activity outside of bird nesting season or conducting pre-construction nesting bird surveys, archaeological and Native American tribal monitoring, and paleontological monitoring.

The Project is estimated to cost \$21,936,000 and is funded through the design phase with Conservancy Fund (\$240,000), Active Transportation Program (\$2,150,000), and City (\$3,186,000) funds. The City intends to apply for additional funds to close the funding gap.

Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution E-26-09
- Attachment B: Notice of Determination
- Attachment C: Project Location Map

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

8 – Riverside County
Resolution E-26-09

- 1.1 WHEREAS, the City of Coachella (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the Connect Coachella Project (Project) in the City of Coachella in Riverside County; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the City has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, the Project is located on Avenue 48 from Dillon Road to Grapefruit Boulevard, Grapefruit Boulevard from Avenue 48 to Avenue 54, Avenue 54 from Van Buren Street to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, in the City of Coachella in Riverside County; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Project includes construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The Project includes a 3.8-mile-long Class 1 bike path along Grapefruit Boulevard, and 3.2 miles of new Class II bike lanes on both the north and south sides of Avenue 54. A 0.08-mile Class I bike path extension is proposed on the south side of Avenue 48. The project also includes new crosswalks, Americans with Disabilities Act-curb ramps, a new roundabout, right-turn slip lanes, triangular median dividers, striping, a new at-grade railroad crossing, and signage; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, impacts that require mitigation measures in order to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils (paleontological resources), and tribal cultural resources, and certain measures were adopted to address these impacts; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, on May 20, 2024, the City adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and found that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, on January 5, 20226, the City confirmed that the Mitigated Negative Declaration remains valid, there are no newly identified impacts or substantial increase in the severity of an impact requiring mitigation, and the environmental document is consistent with the Project scope of work programmed by the Commission; and

- 1.9 WHEREAS, the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approves the above-referenced Project for future consideration of funding.

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: Connect Coachella Project

2024040320

Gabriel Perez

(760) 398-3502

State Clearinghouse Number

Lead Agency Contact Person

Area Code/Telephone

Project Location (include county): The project is located on Avenue 48 from Dillon Road to Grapefruit Boulevard, Grapefruit Boulevard from Avenue 48 to Avenue 54, and Avenue 54 from Van Buren Street to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, in the City of Coachella in Riverside County.

Project Description: The project includes construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The Project includes a 3.8-mile-long Class I bike path along Grapefruit Boulevard, and 3.2 miles of new Class II bike lanes on both the north and south sides of Avenue 54. A 0.08-mile Class I bike path extension is proposed on the south side of Avenue 48. The project also includes new crosswalks, Americans with Disabilities Act-curb ramps, a new roundabout, right-turn slip lanes, triangular median dividers, striping, a new at-grade railroad crossing, and signage.

This is to advise that the California Transportation Commission has approved the above-described
(Lead Agency / Responsible Agency)

project on January 29-30, 2026, 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. A Final Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Mitigated 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: Coachella City Hall, 53990 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236.

TANISHA TAYLOR

Signature (Public Agency)

Date

Executive Director
California Transportation Commission

Title

Date received for filing at OPR:

Project Location Map

Connect Coachella, City of Coachella, Riverside County



Project Location Map (continued)

Connect Coachella, City of Coachella, Riverside County

