

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 11-12, 2002

Reference No.: 2.2c.(3)
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Gary R. Winters
Chief
Division of Environmental Analysis

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING, TO CONSTRUCT ROADWAY WIDENING IN THE CITY OF VISALIA, RESOLUTION NUMBER E-02-58.**

ISSUE:

The attached resolution proposes to approve for consideration of funding the following project for which a Final Environmental Impact Statement has been completed:

- Route 63 in Tulare County – Widen roadway in the City of Visalia.

This project widens a roadway in the City of Visalia in Tulare County. The project is fully funded in the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), entirely with Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds. The total cost of the project is \$25,012,000 with construction scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006/2007.

The Environmental Impact Report and Executive Summary have been transmitted to California Transportation Commission staff.

The Department of Transportation has approved the project for construction. This approval and the resulting filing of the Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the project planning process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-02-58.

Attachment

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 06-Tul-63 KP 9.3/12.9 (PM 5.8/8.0)

Resolution E-02-58

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the CEQA Guidelines, and the California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations for the following project:
 - Route 63 in Tulare County – Widen roadway in the City of Visalia.
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that the Environmental Impact Report has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (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 Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Impact Report did not identify any significant effects;
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby adopt the Final Environmental Impact Report that supports approval of this recommended project to allow for future consideration of funding.

Finding of No Significant Impact/ Final Environmental Impact Report Executive Summary

Widen Route 63/Mooney Boulevard from KP9.3 to 12.9 in the City of Visalia

Project Description. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to widen State Route 63/Mooney Boulevard from a four to a six-lane divided highway from Packwood Creek to Noble Avenue in the City of Visalia, Tulare County, California from KP 9.3/12.9 (PM 5.8/8.0).

Purpose and Need. Accidents within this portion of State Route 63 are twice the expected state average accident rate. Four of nine signalized intersections within this 2.2-mile section of Route 63 are operating below the recommended level of service, which has led to congested intersections. This is partially caused by numerous U-turn movements and entering and exiting traffic from the adjacent 156 private driveways. Traffic projections indicate increased traffic through the year 2025, creating a greater demand on this portion of Route 63 and the need for additional lanes.

Project Alternatives. The alternatives considered in the environmental analysis are:

- **Alternatives Considered and Rejected.** Several alternatives for widening State Route 63/Mooney Boulevard were considered but rejected:

Alternative A included construction of three travel lanes in each direction, wider curb radii, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) wheel chair ramps on corners mostly within the existing road right-of-way. This alternative was rejected because it does not meet the purpose and need at intersections. Estimated cost is \$9.1 million.

Alternative C included construction of three travel lanes in each direction, built to standard widths. It would require right-of-way of 5.4 meters (18 feet) on each side of Route 63 for the entire length of the project. This alternative was rejected because it would impact 52 buildings with 118 businesses, is unacceptable to the city and businesses, and would cost over \$29.8 million.

- **No-Build Alternative.** The No-Build Alternative would not meet the project purpose and need.
- **Alternative B (Preferred)** includes three travel lanes in each direction, additional turn lanes at intersections, some road realignment, wider curb radii, ADA wheel chair ramps, and bus turnouts. Median, lane, shoulder, and sidewalk widths would be modified. Three structures would be affected. Utilities and landscaping would be relocated. Estimated cost is \$25,012,000.

Environmental Consequences. Construction of this project would have impacts on right-of-way and landscape.

- **Right-of-Way.** Eleven businesses, which include three structures, may need relocation assistance. Additional businesses may require compensation in the form of damage payments and/or relocation assistance. Approximately 56 parking spaces and landscaping would be affected. Right-of-way from 83 parcels, most of them sliver takes, are needed for bus turnouts, right turn lanes, increased intersection corner radii, ADA wheel chair ramps, and minor highway realignment.
- **Landscape.** One valley oak would require removal. Plant relocations and median enhancement would provide visual and esthetic compensation for affected median and business landscaping.

This environmental document did not identify any significant environmental effects; therefore no findings for significant environmental effects are required.

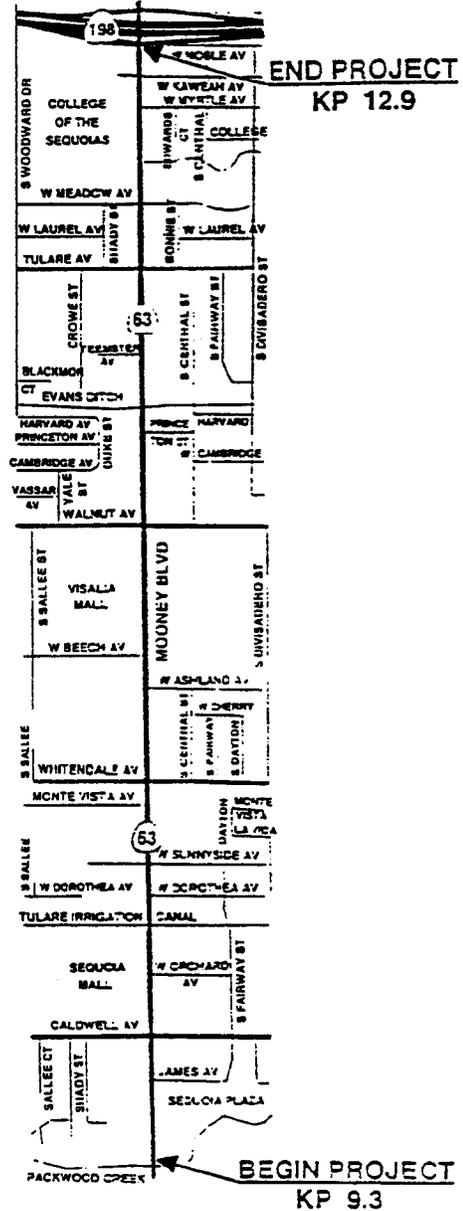
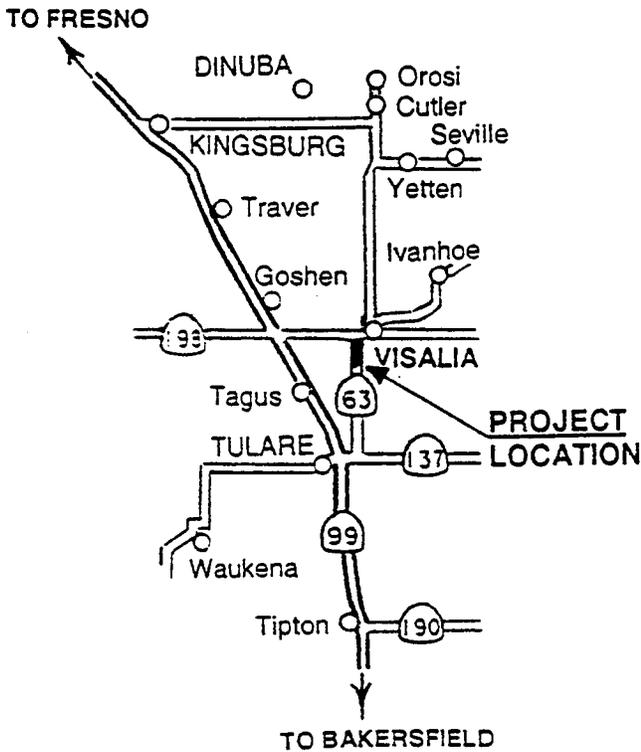
Coordination. Consultation was held with the California Department of Fish & Game, City of Visalia, State Historic Preservation Office, Tulare County Association of Governments, Tulare County Historical Society, Tulare County Resource Management Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Visalia Beautification Committee and Visalia City Council.

MOONEY BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT

06-TUL-63 EA 307000



No Scale



ON STATE ROUTE (SR) 63 IN THE CITY OF VISALIA, TULARE COUNTY
 From the North Side of Packwood Creek to Noble Avenue