

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 23, 2012

Reference No.: 2.3b.(1)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry L. Abbott
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 04-SCL-880 PM 0.4**
RESOLUTION S-751

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-751 and map authorizing a new public road connection to I-880 at North Monroe Street in the city of San Jose.

ISSUE:

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority has requested approval of a new public road connection to I-880. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto. It is recommended that the Commission approve the resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection on the west side of I-880 to North Monroe Street connection in the city of San Jose, in the county of Santa Clara, at Post Mile 0.4.

Recommended by: _____
ROBERT PIEPLOW
Acting Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), in cooperation with the Department and the city of San Jose, proposes to improve the State Route 17 (SR 17)/Interstate 280 (I-280) /Interstate 880 (I-880) freeway-to freeway interchange and the I-880/Stevens Creek Boulevard interchange in the city of San Jose to improve operations and safety, improve traffic circulation, and reduce traffic congestion and delay.

Substantial residential and commercial growth has occurred in the area of the Stevens Creek Boulevard corridor. Included in this growth are several expansions of a large regional shopping mall (Westfield Valley Fair) and the construction of a large mixed-use development (Santana Row). High traffic volumes have resulted from this growth.

This project proposes to construct a dedicated lane directly onto Monroe Street from the realigned Southbound I-880/Stevens Creek Boulevard exit-ramp. The dedicated lane to Monroe Street will have an 18-foot-wide lane with 4-foot-wide left and 8-foot-wide right shoulders. This project would reconfigure a portion of Monroe Street, approximately 400 feet north of the intersection with Stevens Creek Boulevard, to accommodate the dedicated lane from the southbound I-880 exit ramp. In order to accommodate realigning the exit ramp and to terminate it onto Monroe Street, additional Right of Way will be required. This will also require a new access point along the existing controlled access right of way.

I- 880 in this vicinity is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System. I-880 extends from I-280 in San Jose to I-80 in Oakland. I-880 and I-280 are part of a belt route around the Bay Area connecting multiple cities and counties. Within the project area, SR 17, I-880 and I-280 are located entirely within an urbanized area.

On April 19, 1951, the California Highway Commission adopted the portion of I-880 from Hamilton Avenue to Bascom Avenue as a freeway. The current I-880 designation was assigned in 1984 after a transfer from SR 17.

Within the project limits, I-880 is predominantly comprised of three mixed-flow lanes with inside and outside shoulders in both directions. An existing median barrier separates the northbound and southbound traffic. Auxiliary lanes exist between the Stevens Creek Boulevard and Bascom Avenue interchanges in both directions. The mixed-flow lanes are 12 feet wide. The outside shoulder is 10 feet wide and the inside shoulder width varies from 2 to 6 feet. There are existing sound walls north of Forest Avenue, on both sides of I-880. The existing right of way varies from 150 to 500 feet wide within the project limits.

Stevens Creek Boulevard is an east-west major arterial, which extends from the City of Cupertino to Bascom Avenue, just east of I-880. At Bascom Avenue, the arterial becomes San Carlos Street. San Carlos Street runs easterly through Downtown San Jose. Within the project limits, Stevens Creek Boulevard is a divided six-lane road. Numerous retail stores such as Westfield Valley Fair (one of the largest malls in Northern California), restaurants, the famous Winchester Mystery House, auto dealerships, movie theatres, a local park (Frank Santana Park) and residential houses occupy the area west of I-880 and north of I-280.

On March 27, 2008, VTA completed a corridor study on I-880 between US 101 and I-280. In this corridor study a Traffic Operations Analysis Report (TOAR) was prepared for the Improvements at SR-17/I-280/I-880 Interchange and the I-880/Stevens Creek Boulevard Interchange. The TOAR concluded that the proposed modifications at I-880 and Stevens Creek Boulevard would remove a number of existing merge/weave constraints and separate regional (NB I-280 to NB I-880) and local traffic (NB I-280 to Stevens Creek Boulevard). It would also improve the flow through the interchange allowing more traffic to get onto Stevens Creek Boulevard. Realigning the I-880 southbound exit ramp to connect to Monroe Street would provide significant benefit during Saturday mid-day delays and reduce spillback from Stevens Creek Boulevard/NB I-880 exit ramp to NB I-280 resulting in decrease in congestion.

An Environmental Scoping Meeting was held on January 28, 2009 to discuss the planned improvements and seek input from the community. A Public Hearing was held on December 8, 2010 for the proposed improvements at SR-17/I-280/I-880 Interchange, I-280/Winchester Boulevard Interchange and I- 880/Stevens Creek Boulevard Interchange. These meetings were organized by VTA, the Department, City of San Jose and consultant staff. Local elected officials, residents and local business representatives attended the meetings. The project was presented to VTA's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee during a February 9, 2011 meeting.

VTA's *Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035* is the countywide transportation plan for Santa Clara County for the next 25 years. It was adopted by the VTA Board of Directors in January 2009. The plan includes the vision for transportation, support for the regional (Bay Area) vision for transportation and outlines transportation planning projects and programs for Santa Clara County. This project is listed as project #H73 (I-280/I-880/Stevens Creek Boulevard Interchange Improvements) and #H70 (I-280 Northbound Winchester Boulevard Interchange Improvements) with \$64 million and \$59 million VTP allocation in 2008 dollars, respectively.

The estimated construction cost for this project is \$46,400,000. The right of way cost is estimated at \$4,800,000 including utilities. Capital Outlay Support is estimated at \$14,200,000. This project is currently on the May, 2012 Commission Agenda to vote construction funds; proposed funding includes Corridor Mobility Improvement Account money.

All applicable Mandatory and Advisory Design Exceptions have been approved. The Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment was approved by the Department on July 8, 2011. The Department approved the Project Report on July 25, 2011. The Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment was approved by the Commission on October 27, 2011. A Superseding Freeway Agreement with the City of San Jose is currently in draft form and will be sent to the City of San Jose for execution in the near future.

Attachments

Resolution S-751
Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection**

4-SCL-880 PM 0.4

Resolution S-751

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority has requested approval of a new public road connection on State Route 880 for Monroe Street; and

WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment was approved on July 8, 2011, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and

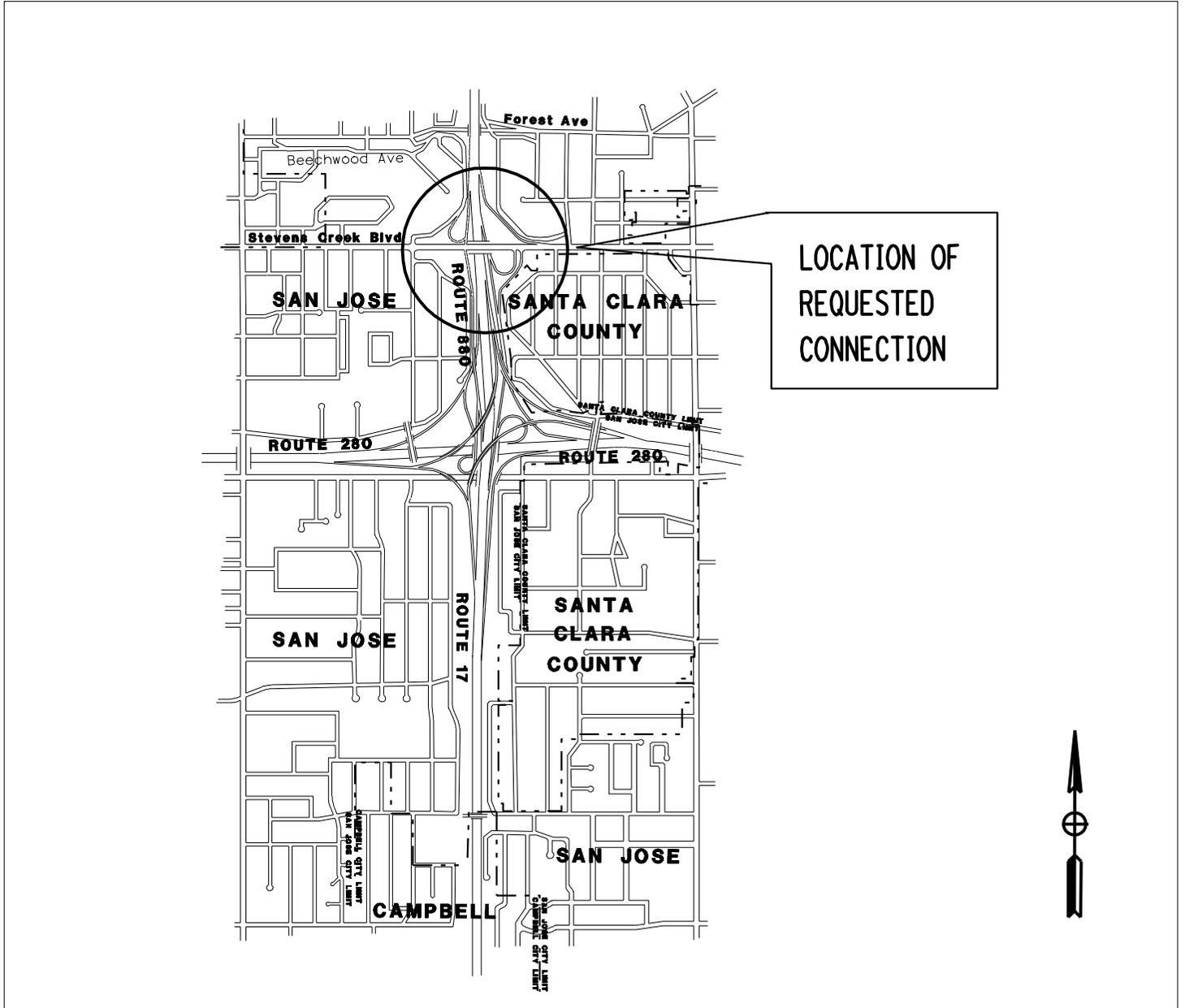
WHEREAS, the project will have impacts on the environment that will be mitigated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby authorize one new public road connection on State Route 880 at Monroe Street, PM 0.4, in the city of San Jose, in the county of Santa Clara.



NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION

04-SANTA CLARA-880



LOCATION MAP