

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 7-8, 2006

Reference No.: 2.1a.(1)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Ross A. Chittenden
Division Chief
Transportation Programming

Subject: **STIP AMENDMENT 06S-001**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve this State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendment for the Town of Truckee and the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC). This amendment was noticed at the April 2006 Commission meeting.

ISSUE:

The Town of Truckee and NCTC propose to change the implementing agency for the Project Approval and Environmental (PA&ED) component on the Route 89/Union Pacific Railroad Grade Separation Widening project (PPNO 3L43) from the Town of Truckee to the Department.

BACKGROUND:

The Route 89/Union Pacific Railroad Grade Separation Widening (Mousehole) project (PPNO 3L43) is currently programmed for \$500,000 in the Regional Improvement Program for PA&ED to widen the roadway. The Town of Truckee is currently the implementing agency for the PA&ED component of this project. In order to move this project forward, the Town of Truckee proposes to change the implementing agency to the Department.

On April 3, 2002, the Town of Truckee was granted and accepted lead agency status for developing PA&ED for the Mousehole project from the Commission. Since that time, funding for the Mousehole project has not been available due to State budget shortfalls. However, partial funding for the Mousehole project has recently become available through the federal reauthorization act, SAFE TEA-LU. The Department has indicated a desire and willingness to re-assume lead agency status on that project. The Town of Truckee is supportive of relinquishing lead agency status on the Mousehole project to the Department at this time in order to expedite project delivery on this project.

RESOLUTION:

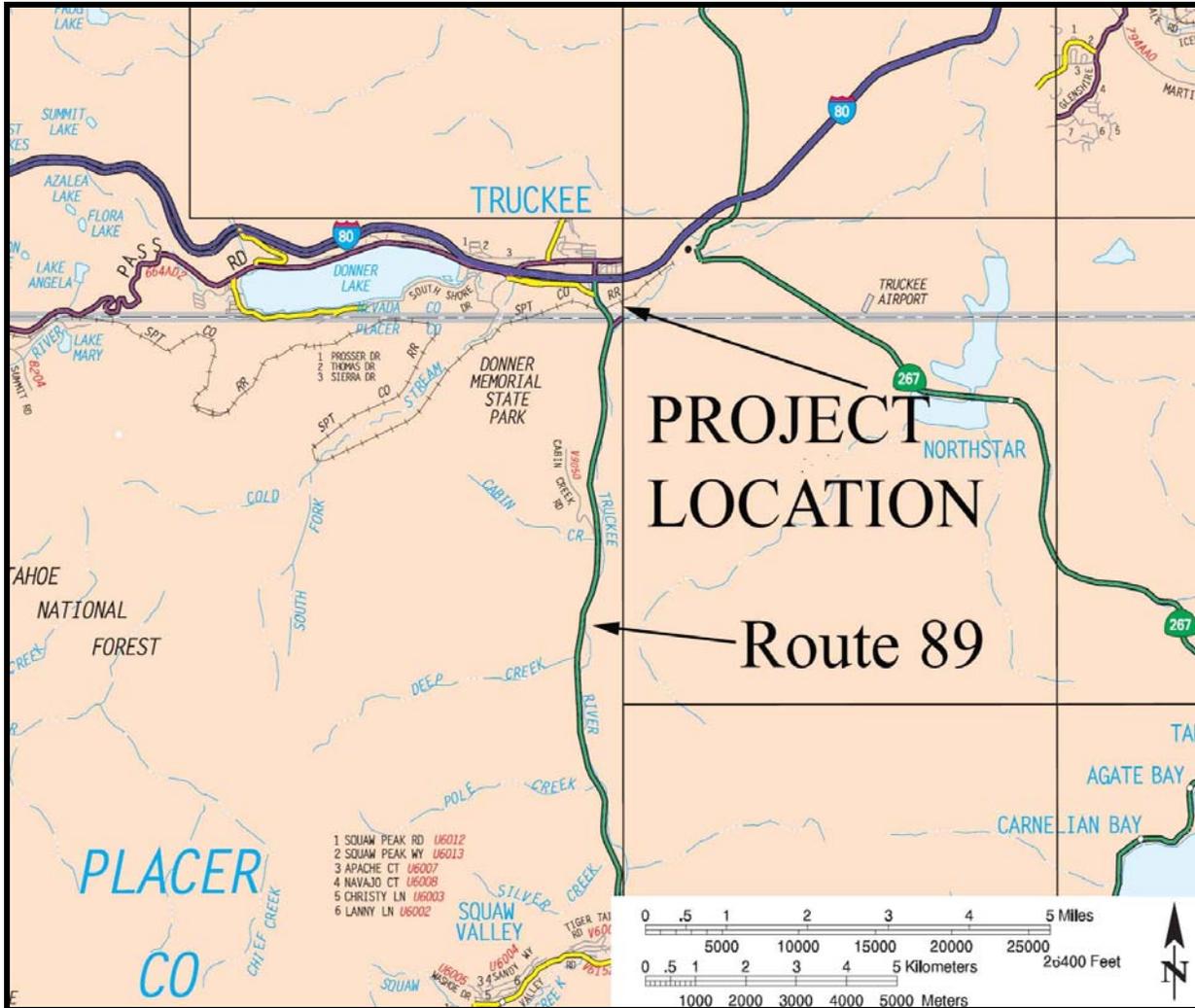
Resolved, that the California Transportation Commission revise the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program at the end of the 30-day notice period, as follows:

Revises:

County	District	PPNO	EA	Element	Const. Year	PM Back	PM Ahead	Route/Corridor				
Nevada	3	3L43	1C0801	CO	--	0.1	0.2	89				
Implementing Agency: (by component)		PA&ED	City of Truckee-Caltrans			PS&E						
		R/W				CON						
RTPA/CTC:	Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC)											
Project Title:	SR 89/Union Pacific Railroad Grade Separation Widening											
Location	In the town of Truckee - at the Union Pacific Railroad undercrossing known as "the Mousehole"											
Description:	Widen roadway											
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)												
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year					Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp
RIP												
Existing	500	2		498					500			
Change	0	0		0					0			
Proposed	500	2		498					500			
Local Funds												
Existing	120	120							120			
Change	0	0							0			
Proposed	120	120							120			
Total												
Existing	620	122		498					620			
Change	0	0		0					0			
Proposed	620	122		498					620			

STIP AMENDMENT 06S-001

Location Map



03 – Nevada

PPNO 3L43

Location: In the Town of Truckee – at the Union Pacific Railroad undercrossing known as “the Mousehole”.

Description: Widen roadway.

Attachment

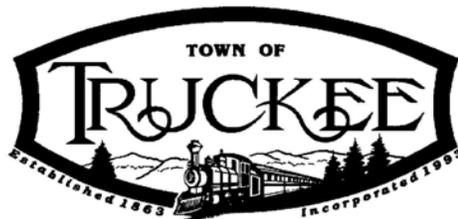


Town Council

Beth Ingalls, Mayor

Richard Anderson, Vice Mayor

Craig F. Threshie, Councilmember
Joshua J. Susman, Councilmember
Barbara Green, Councilmember



Department Heads

Tony Lashbrook, Town Manager

Scott Berry, Chief of Police

J. Dennis Crabb, Town Attorney

John McLaughlin, Community Development Director

David M. Heath, Administrative Services Director

Judy Price, Town Clerk

Alex Terrazas, Assistant to the Town Manager

Daniel Wilkins, Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Mr. David Brewer, Deputy Director for Highways and Programming
California Transportation Commission
1120 N St Room 2221 MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 22, 2006

Dear Mr. Brewer:

It has come to the Town of Truckee's attention, through discussion with Dan Landon, Executive Director of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is requesting additional information as to the rationale behind the Town of Truckee's and Caltrans' joint request that lead agency status for the State Route 89/Union Pacific Railroad Underpass (Mousehole) replacement project be assigned to Caltrans. The basic answer to this question is that it is the Town's desire to see this project move forward into the project development process. The Town has been actively promoting this project for a number of years. However, project development activities have been prevented due to lack of project funding. I would also note that this is a facility which is owned by Caltrans that is located beneath the Union Pacific Railroad mainline and within Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The following presents key milestones regarding the history of this project from the Town's perspective:

- During June of 1996, the Town requested that NCTC fund a feasibility analysis of replacing the Mousehole. NCTC granted this request and prepared the State Route 89/Union Pacific Railroad Grade Separation Feasibility Analysis Report dated June 24, 1997.
- As a part of the 2001/2002 STIP planning process, the Town requested that NCTC include \$500,000 of planning funds in the RTIP. This request was granted and the funds were programmed by the CTC.
- Upon programming of those funds Town staff and Caltrans staff held discussions to determine which agency would take the lead on the project. At that time, Caltrans began work as the lead agency and developed a PSR (PDS only) for the project.
- Upon completion of the PSR (PDS only), Caltrans indicated that they did not have adequate staff resources or the ability to contract out to pursue the PA & ED phase of the project. As a result, the Town of Truckee agreed to take on that role. This was codified through resolution 2003-05 by the Truckee Town Council (copy attached).

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Police Department: 530-550-2328 / Fax: 530-550-2326 / email: policedepartment@townoftruckee.com

- The request to change lead agency status was submitted to the CTC concurrent with a request to allocate the RTIP funds to allow project development to continue. At that time, the CTC approved the lead agency change but, declined to allocate the programmed funds in keeping with the allocation suspension that went into effect in December 2002. As a result, project development work was delayed due to the funding not being allocated.
- Based on dialogue with NCTC staff, the Town was under the understanding that in both 2004 and 2005 the CTC allocation plan did not allow for previously programmed RTIP funds to be allocated for project development projects.
- Because the project was stalled due to lack of funding, the Town of Truckee took the lead in promoting this project with U.S. Representative John Doolittle's office in order to acquire earmark funding in the recently approved federal surface transportation reauthorization. This effort culminated in a \$2,820,000 earmark for this project which requires a 20% non federal match.
- Upon receipt of the earmark funding, Town staff opened dialogue with Caltrans staff to discuss initiating project development activities. I would note that the Town of Truckee employs a total of four licensed engineers. Caltrans indicated an ability to reassume the lead role in project development. From the Town's perspective this will be the most efficient means by which to move the project forward. This is due to the fact that Caltrans has far more staff resources to draw upon for this project than does the Town, and due to the fact that this project will require a high level of coordination between Caltrans and the Railroad which would be more difficult for the Town as a third party to coordinate than should be the case if Caltrans is leading the project.

Given the Town's long standing goal to see this project move into project development, we are respectfully requesting that CTC approve the change of lead agency status for this project. The requested action restores the original agreement regarding the completion of the project development work between the Town of Truckee and Caltrans, strengthens the partnership between the two agencies, and also eliminates the need for the Town to pay Caltrans 10% oversight charges. Both the District 3 Director, Jody Jones, and Caltrans Director, Will Kempton, support the requested action.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Wilkins, P.E.
Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Cc: Truckee Town Council
Tony Lashbrook, Town Manager
Dan Landon, Executive Director NCTC

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