

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: February 22-23, 2012

Reference No.: 2.3a.
Action item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry L. Abbott
Chief Division of Design

Subject: ROUTE ADOPTION – STATE HIGHWAY, 03-PLA-49 PM R2.5/R2.82
RESOLUTION HRA 12-03

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Highway Route Adoption Resolution HRA 12-03 and a route location map for State Highway Route (SR) 49. The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission approve the resolution and the route location map in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of State highway route adoption of SR 49 in the city of Auburn, in Placer County from Post Mile (PM) R2.5 to R2.82.

ISSUE:

The City of Auburn and the Department propose to adopt a portion of Elm Avenue as State Route 49 highway location to address the lack of continuity of this route through the City of Auburn. A project report was approved on October 19, 2011. A Categorical Exception Determination, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, was signed on March 26, 2009.

Recommended by: _____
ROBERT PIEPLOW
Acting Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this route adoption is to address the lack of continuity of SR 49 through the City of Auburn. In 2009, a portion of SR 49 through downtown City of Auburn was relinquished to the City creating a gap in this route. The relinquished portion of SR 49 spanned from just south of the eastbound I-80 on ramp to the intersection of High Street and Elm Avenue as shown on the attached vicinity map. The relinquishment was sought by the City to obtain control of the facility and allow them to pursue improvements to their local system. This route adoption as a conventional highway will allow SR 49 to reconnect to I-80 via Elm Avenue.

SR 49 is part of the Interregional System and is identified as a Focus Route from I-80 to the northern communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City. It extends south to north from Route 41 near Oakhurst, in Madera County, through the cities of Sonora, Jackson, Placerville, Auburn and Nevada City to SR 70 near Vinton, in Plumas County. The segment of the route which pertains to this route adoption was brought into the State Highway System in 1921 as former Route 65, later designated as Route 108 and finally designated as SR 49. This portion of SR 49 is not part of the Freeway and Expressway System.

SR 49 is considered regionally significant as it serves commuters traveling between I-80 and SR 50 and recreational travel to Auburn State Recreation Area, the America River, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, and other historic areas.

On August 30, 2008, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1915 which amended Section 349 of the Streets and Highways Code and provided the authority to relinquish a portion of SR 49 within the City of Auburn.

On May 14, 2009, at the request of the City of Auburn and the California Department of Transportation (Department), the California Transportation Commission (Commission) relinquished a portion of SR 49 to the City of Auburn. The relinquished portion extended from the I-80 interchange, along south Grass Valley Highway, east on Lincoln Way and east on High Street to the intersection with Elm Avenue. This stretch of highway is the main thoroughfare through downtown Auburn and is part of a revitalization project proposed by the City called Streetscape Project for Lincoln Way and High Street. Phase 1 of this project was completed on June 28, 2010. The City also wanted control over future projects proposed for construction and to limit the amount of traffic and speed within the downtown area. The City's General Plan identifies this route as a city street with multi-purpose mixed use.

The portion of Elm Avenue to be adopted is 0.3 mile long and is classified as an urban minor arterial. It is a four-lane arterial with a 12-foot median, 5-foot shoulders with curb, gutter and sidewalks on both sides of the road. Access to Elm Avenue between Tuttle Street and the westbound I-80 on ramp is controlled and the median is used as left turn lanes. East of Tuttle Street to the intersection of High Street / SR 49, the 12-foot median becomes a two-way left turn lane and there are several driveways serving local businesses. This section does not have any shoulders, but continues the curb, gutter and sidewalks from the previous section.

The portion of Elm Avenue from the I-80 on ramp to the intersection with SR 49 is not included in this adoption, thus maintaining a gap in SR 49 continuity, albeit a smaller gap. Continuity can be obtained through the designation of I-80 between the Elm Avenue and the Grass Valley Highway interchanges as I-80/SR49.

Elm Avenue currently serves as the preferred truck route for truck traffic travelling along SR 49 through the City of Auburn. Trucks travelling south from Grass Valley predominately turn left on Elm Avenue to avoid downtown and then another left on High Street to get back on SR 49. Trucks travelling on I-80 predominately take the Elm Avenue off-ramp to access southbound SR 49. To access northbound SR 49 from I-80, trucks may either use Elm Avenue or SR 49 (Grass Valley Highway). For trucks travelling north from El Dorado County, the preferred truck route diverges from SR 49 once they enter the city due to a tight turning radius that exists at the corner of existing SR 49 and Elm Avenue. Currently, at this location, there are “Truck Route” signs placed by the City to direct trucks to turn left on Lincoln Way and then right on Elm Avenue.

A Categorical Exemption Determination, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, was signed on March 26, 2009. The Project Report recommending the route adoption of portion of Elm Avenue as SR 49 was approved on October 19, 2011.

On December 12, 2011, the City of Auburn passed Resolution No. 11-123 approving the proposed SR 49 Route Adoption along Elm Avenue.

Attachments:

Resolution HRA 12-03
Location Map
Vicinity Map
Route Adoption Map

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Highway Route Adoption Resolution
03-Pla-49 PM R2.5/R2.82

Resolution HRA 12-03

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department) and the City of Auburn jointly request approval of this Route Adoption as State Highway; and

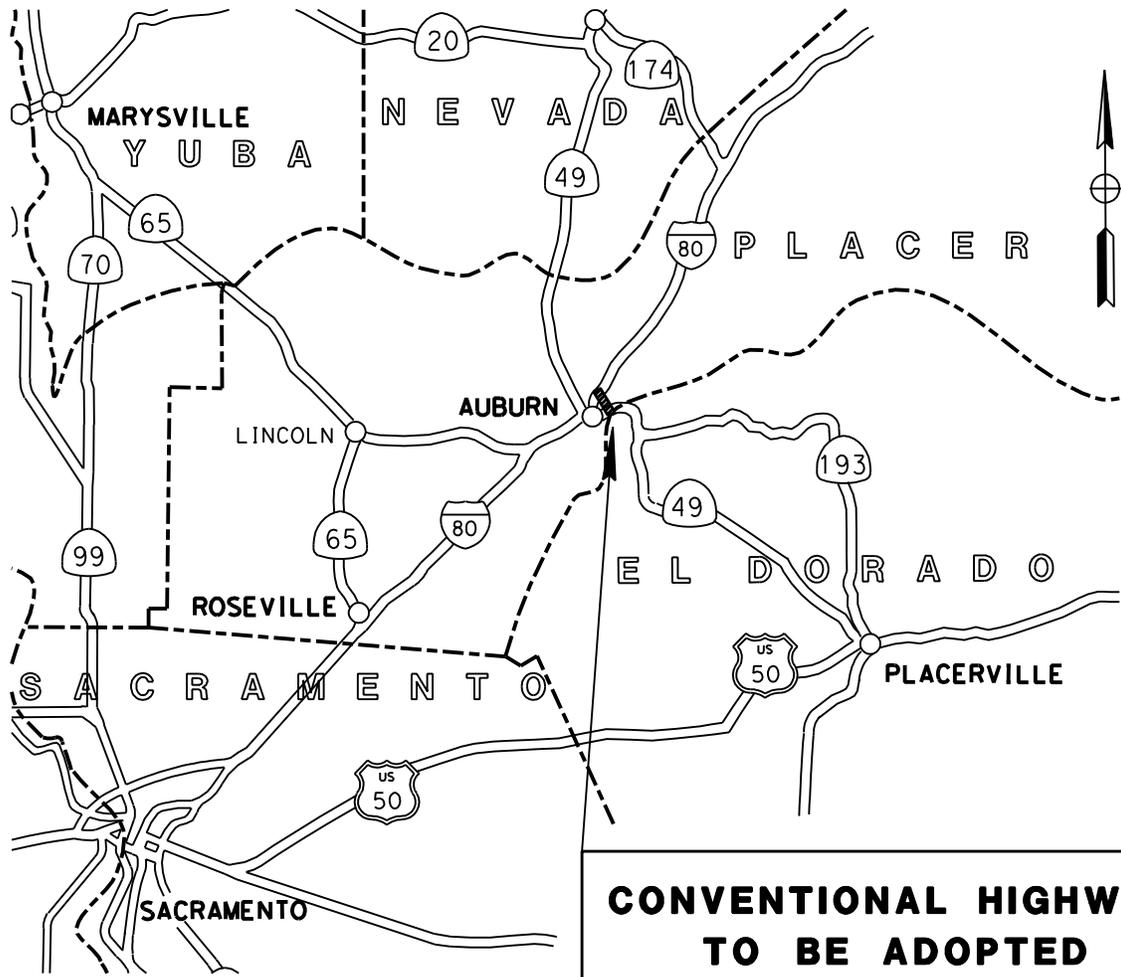
WHEREAS, in May 2009, a portion of SR 49 through downtown City of Auburn from just south of the eastbound I-80 on ramp to the High Street intersection with Elm Avenue was relinquished to the City creating a gap on this route; and

WHEREAS, a Categorically Exemption Determination, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, was signed on March 26, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Project Report recommending the Route adoption was approved on October 19, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby select, adopt, and determine the location of that segment of State Highway Route 49, along Elm Avenue from High Street to westbound I-80 on ramp, in the city of Auburn, and officially designate it as 03-PLA-49, a State Highway, as said location is shown on the Route Adoption map submitted by Terry L. Abbott, Chief Design Engineer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that such location of said State highway is for the best interest of the State.



**CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAY
TO BE ADOPTED**



**STATE HIGHWAY
ROUTE ADOPTION
LOCATION MAP**

03-PLA-49

Map navigation controls including a compass, zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons, a zoom slider, and a vertical scroll bar for map navigation.

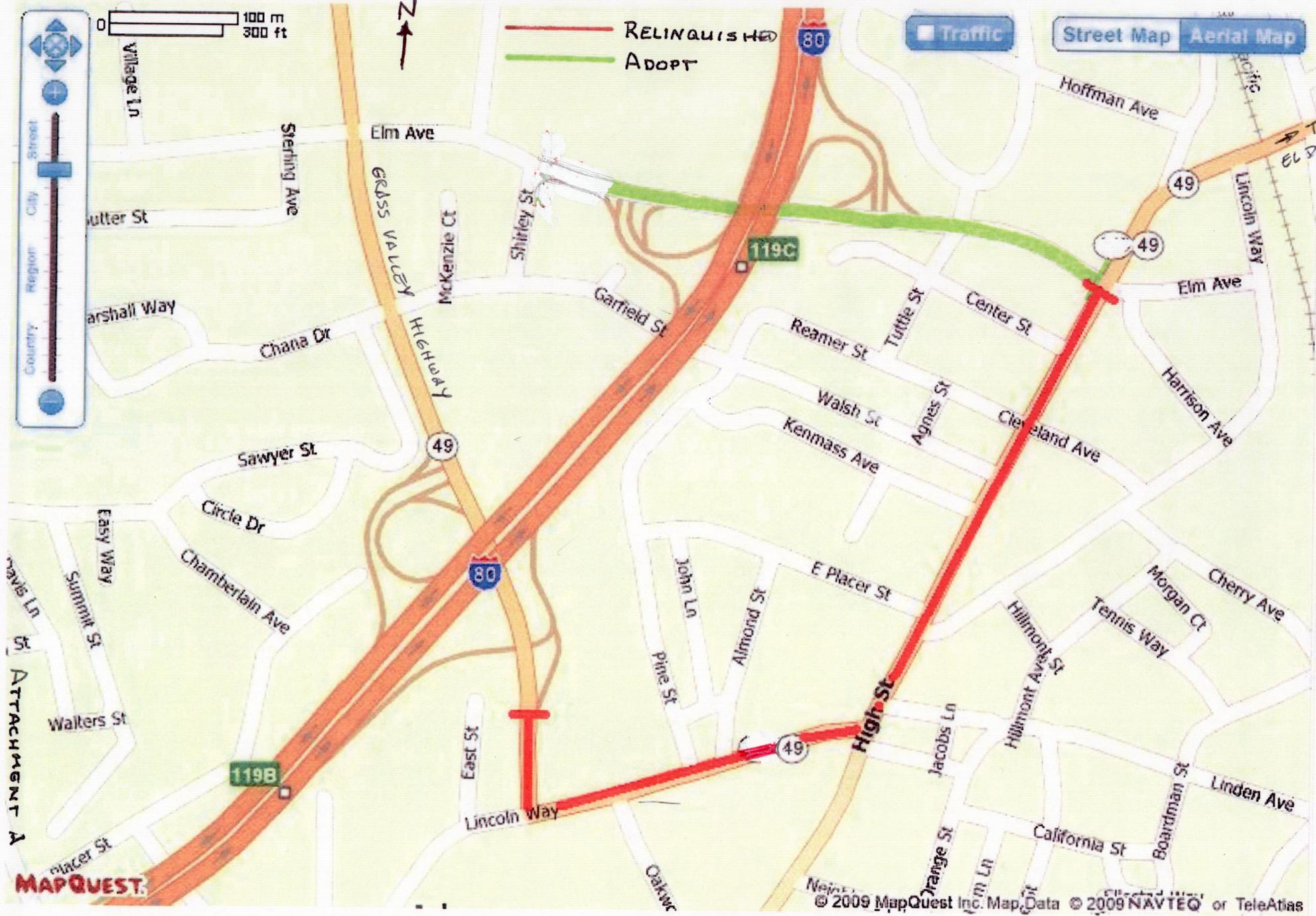
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RELINQUISH
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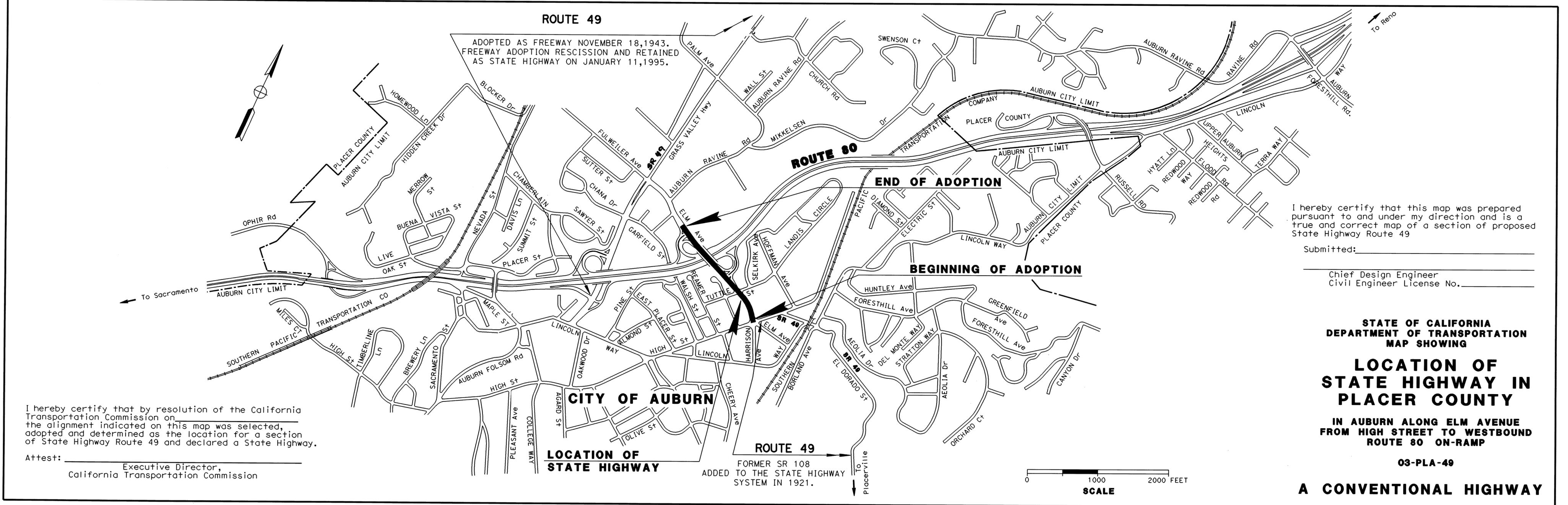
Traffic

Street Map Aerial Map



ATTACHMENT A

MAPQUEST



ROUTE 49

ADOPTED AS FREEWAY NOVEMBER 18, 1943.
 FREEWAY ADOPTION RESCISSION AND RETAINED
 AS STATE HIGHWAY ON JANUARY 11, 1995.

ROUTE 80

END OF ADOPTION

BEGINNING OF ADOPTION

CITY OF AUBURN

LOCATION OF STATE HIGHWAY

ROUTE 49
 FORMER SR 108
 ADDED TO THE STATE HIGHWAY
 SYSTEM IN 1921.



I hereby certify that this map was prepared pursuant to and under my direction and is a true and correct map of a section of proposed State Highway Route 49

Submitted: _____
 Chief Design Engineer
 Civil Engineer License No. _____

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 MAP SHOWING**

LOCATION OF STATE HIGHWAY IN PLACER COUNTY

IN AUBURN ALONG ELM AVENUE FROM HIGH STREET TO WESTBOUND ROUTE 80 ON-RAMP

03-PLA-49

A CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAY

I hereby certify that by resolution of the California Transportation Commission on _____ the alignment indicated on this map was selected, adopted and determined as the location for a section of State Highway Route 49 and declared a State Highway.

Attest: _____
 Executive Director,
 California Transportation Commission