

135
SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: TLMA – Transportation Dept.

SUBMITTAL DATE: February 24, 2003

SUBJECT: Funding and Implementation Strategy to Upgrade State Route 79
(Winchester Road)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board receive and file the funding and implementation strategy to upgrade Winchester Road and direct the Transportation Department to proceed as outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND: On July 16, 2002, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2002-265 requesting the development of a funding strategy to upgrade State Route 79 (Winchester Road), from Domenigoni Parkway south to Hunter Road. The Resolution directed the County of Riverside Transportation Department to work cooperatively with Caltrans and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) to develop a funding and implementation strategy to address the immediate near term improvements and the ultimate six lane improvement and report back to the Board within 180 days.
(Continue)

for George A Johnson
Director of Transportation

FINANCIAL DATA:

CURRENT YEAR COST \$26,950,000

ANNUAL COST:

\$ 0

NET COUNTY COST \$0

IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: Yes/ x No/

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: Yes/ No/ x

FY:

SOURCE OF FUNDS: 78.4% STIP, 12.4% SW RBBD, 0.8% ADA 161, 1.9% SMD 3, 0.2% 3rd Dist DMF, 2.2% Developer, 4.0% Caltrans, 0.1% Misc.

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Officer Signature

Policy

Policy

Consent

Consent

Department Recommendation:

Per Executive Office:

Prev. Agn. Ref.

Dist. 3rd

AGENDA NO.

3.15

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The section of Winchester Road from Domenigoni Parkway to Hunter Road exists primarily as a rural, two lane road. Recent and ongoing development within the Cities of Temecula and Murrieta, combined with the growth in the French Valley area is placing increasing traffic burdens on this section of highway. Current traffic volumes of 15,000 vehicles per day exceed the existing highway capacity with the volumes expected to increase to over 50,000 vpd within the next twenty years. The long range forecast predicts there will be over 75,000 vpd using this section of Winchester Road.

The transportation agencies involved anticipated the future traffic volumes on Winchester Road and chose to fund the widening of Winchester Road to a 4 lane facility, from Old Newport Road south to Keller Road, as part of the original Measure A, approved in 1988. Measure A programmed \$13.5 million to widen this section of Winchester Road. Caltrans has been designated as the lead agency to deliver the Measure A widening of Winchester Road. Due to some programming changes at RCTC, the funding for Winchester Road has been changed to STIP dollars, which are federal funds. Project development work was initiated by Caltrans in 2001, with the anticipation of the project going to construction in 2004. The County and RCTC participate on the project development team with Caltrans. At the project initiation, it was determined the logical limits needed to be extended south from Keller Road to Hunter Road and north from old Newport Road up to Domenigoni Parkway. Winchester Road south of Hunter Road is already improved as a six lane highway south to it's intersection with I-15. RCTC approved an additional \$1.35 million of STIP funds, to complete the environmental and engineering work for the extended limits, bringing the total project funding to \$14.85 million. The total project cost to widen Winchester Road to 4 lanes from Domenigoni Parkway south to Hunter Road is estimated to be \$27 Million.

The ultimate improvement to Winchester Road calls for a six lane expressway. The expressway will limit intersection spacing to a minimum of one-half mile spacing, with no direct access to the highway. The Transportation Department is currently working with Caltrans on developing a Memorandum of Understanding, which will show the existing and anticipated intersections to guide future development along this corridor. The Transportation Department will bring the MOU to the Board for consideration and approval as soon as we can finalize the planning with Caltrans. The cost for the ultimate six lane expressway is expected to exceed \$100 million.

Given the extensive costs of the ultimate six lane expressway combined with the limited current funding, the Transportation Department decided to focus on developing a short range solution. In discussions with Caltrans, RCTC and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) it was determined that a 4 lane limited access expressway will handle the projected 2025 year traffic volumes approaching 50,000 vpd. The preliminary total estimated cost of constructing a four lane expressway with designated signalized intersections is expected to be \$27 Million. The County and Caltrans have

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been working cooperatively to fund and install five signals within the overall project limits. The proposed signals will be placed at the following intersections along Winchester Road:

Hunter Road/Borel Road
Auld Road
Benton Road
Thompson Road
Scott Road

An additional signal will be installed at Willows Avenue, south of Hunter Road. A more detailed list of the proposed signalized intersections with costs, and schedules is shown on the attached exhibit. Construction of each signal will include widening the highway to four lanes with appropriate turn lanes through each of the mentioned intersections. Upon completion of each signalized intersection, a gap will remain where the highway will only be two lanes between intersections.

The Transportation Department has approached Caltrans, RCTC and FHWA about advancing the construction of the gap closures between intersections to provide a continuous four lane highway from Hunter Road north up to Thompson Road. The other highway agencies have acknowledged the need to complete these four lanes and have given the County permission to fund and construct the gap closures between Hunter Road and Thompson Road separate from the overall Caltrans project. The County has approached the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of Fish and Game about the separate gap closure project. The County has received favorable initial responses from the wildlife agencies about proceeding in advance of the larger Caltrans project. The wildlife agencies have indicated we will need to incorporate the proper wildlife crossings into our project. In an effort to accelerate the gap closure projects, the Transportation Department has negotiated a consultant contract to perform the environmental and engineering work to expedite the County led project. The consultant contract is also on today's Board agenda for approval. The cost of completing the gap closures is estimated to cost \$2 Million. The Transportation Department is recommending to fund the gap closures with fees collected from the Southwest Area Road and Bridge Benefit District. Provided we don't encounter some unexpected environmental obstacles, the gap closure projects will start construction in early 2004, as soon as the signals are completed. This will provide the soonest relief to the most congested portion of the highway.

In an effort to secure the additional funding needed to complete the remaining Winchester Road widening from Keller Road to Thompson Road to four lanes, the County requested RCTC transfer the previously approved \$6.1 million of federal STIP funds from the Newport Road project to Winchester Road. The funding transfer allowed the Newport Road project to proceed by complying with only the CEQA environmental

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process without the federal agencies involvement. Removing the federal funds from Newport Road helps both projects. Newport Road will be funded entirely with local funds and will accelerate its construction. The STIP funds have now been placed on Winchester Road to help complete the funding of the four lane Winchester Road project. Caltrans is proceeding with environmental and preliminary engineering studies with construction expected to begin mid 2005 on the remaining four lanes from Thompson Road to Domenigoni Parkway. The Transportation Department will work closely with Caltrans to make sure the projects are properly coordinated.

Ultimately Winchester Road will be upgraded to a six lane expressway. The County will continue to condition future development projects adjacent to Winchester Road to construct their half width improvements as development occurs. In addition to the traditional process of conditioning land development projects fronting Winchester Road, the County has included the additional widening of Winchester Road as a regionally significant TUMF facility. The future widening will ultimately be secured through the TUMF funding. The Transportation Department will continue to work with Caltrans and RCTC in an effort to secure additional funding to accelerate the future widening of Winchester Road to it's ultimate six lane expressway configuration.

FUNDING ANALYSIS

February 24, 2003

	COST ESTIMATES	STIP	SW RBBB	ADA 161	SMD 3	SRD DIST DMF	DEVELOPER	CALTRANS	MISC
SH 79: Domenigoni Pky to Keller Rd WIDEN 2 TO 4 LANES Length = 5.15 mi ROW = 106'	\$ 15,020,000	\$ 15,020,000							
SH 79: Keller Rd to Thompson Rd WIDEN 2 TO 4 LANES Length = 2.48 mi ROW = 114'	\$ 6,100,000	\$ 6,100,000							
SH 79: Thompson Rd to Hunter Rd WIDEN 2 TO 4 LANES Length = 2.26 mi ROW = 144'	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000						
SH 79 @ Scott Rd INSTALL SIGNAL	\$ 750,000							\$ 750,000	
SH 79 @ Thompson Rd INSTALL SIGNAL	\$ 500,000						\$ 500,000		
SH 79 @ Benton Rd INSTALL SIGNAL	\$ 1,221,000		\$ 980,000		\$ 151,000		\$ 90,000		
SH 79 @ Auld Rd INSTALL SIGNAL	\$ 681,000		\$ 350,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 55,000			\$ 30,000
SH 79 @ Hunter Rd INSTALL SIGNAL	\$ 678,000				\$ 344,000			\$ 334,000	
TOTALS:	\$26,950,000	\$ 21,120,000	\$ 3,330,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 516,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 590,000	\$ 1,084,000	\$ 30,000

NOTES:
 SH 79: Domenigoni Pky to Keller Rd estimate derived from STIP application. SH 79: Keller Rd to Thompson Rd estimate was created using the same cost per mile as the SH 79: Domenigoni Pky to Keller Rd segment. SH 79: Domenigoni Pky to Keller Rd includes \$1.5 million for environmental to Thompson Rd.
 SH 79 @ Scott Rd estimate obtained from District 3 presentation materials.
 SH 79 @ Hunter Rd and SH 79 @ Auld Rd estimates obtained from TIP.
 SH 79 @ Benton Rd and SH 79 @ Thompson Rd estimate provided by Juan Perez.

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