

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: September 19-20, 2007

Reference No.: 2.3b.  
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Timothy Craggs  
Acting Chief  
Division of Design

Subject: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 08-SBd-15 PM 38.8**  
**RESOLUTION S-734**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-734 and map authorizing a new public road connection at La Mesa Road/Nisqualli Road to Interstate 15 (I-15) in the city of Victorville.

## **ISSUE:**

The City of Victorville requested approval of a new public road connection to I-15. 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 Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as an interchange to I-15 in the county of San Bernardino, city of Victorville, at Post Mile 38.8.

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD D. LAND  
Chief Engineer

**BACKGROUND:**

Due to projected growth and congestion in the local area, the City of Victorville is proposing a new interchange to I-15 at La Mesa Road/Nisqualli Road. The new connection will accommodate regional traffic growth on the city street system by allowing redistribution of traffic, which would otherwise be concentrated at the existing roadways that cross I-15. This new connection is included in the City of Victorville's General Plan, which was approved in July 1997. A Project Study Report/Project Development Support (PSR/PDS) for this new interchange was approved in September 2001. The Project Report was approved on June 30, 2007.

I-15 is a major north-south corridor that links California, Nevada and Utah. The primary purpose of the route is to provide interregional and interstate mobility. The California portion of I-15 extends from Route 5 in San Diego to the Nevada state line near Stateline, Las Vegas. I-15 is functionally classified as a Rural/Urban Principal Arterial, and is part of the Freeway and Expressway System. It is also a part of the National Highway System and the Strategic Highway Corridor Network of National Defense. I-15 is classified as a "High Emphasis" and "Gateway" route in the Interregional Road System. The California Highway Commission adopted the portion of I-15 in the vicinity of the City of Victorville on March 18, 1948.

In the vicinity of the proposed La Mesa Road/Nisqualli Road interchange, the existing I-15 freeway has three mixed-flow lanes in each direction with a wide median and paved outside shoulders. The Bear Valley Road interchange is located 1.2 miles south of the proposed interchange on I-15, and the Palmdale Road interchange with I-15 is located 1.7 miles to the north. La Mesa Road and Nisqualli Road are east-west roadways that do not connect to I-15 but are aligned with each other on each side of the freeway.

There are two frontage roads parallel the I-15 freeway. Amargosa Road is a four-lane arterial frontage road along the west side of I-15. Mariposa Road is a two-lane arterial frontage road along the east side of I-15 and is planned to be widened to four lanes. Both streets have been designated as a truck route by the City of Victorville.

The proposed interchange project will connect La Mesa Road and Nisqualli Road to I-15 with a full-service interchange, including an overcrossing structure designed to accommodate future freeway widening. The southbound freeway ramps will be hook ramps connecting to Amargosa Road just north of La Mesa Road. The northbound freeway ramps will be a diamond configuration connecting to Nisqualli Road. A public information workshop was conducted on September 30, 2003.

The total capital cost for the proposed interchange is \$84,910,000. The City of Victorville is the project sponsor and implementing agency. The project is funded with a combination of local, regional, state and federal funds. The sources of the funds are anticipated to include developer funds, benefit-assessment districts, Mello-Roos community facilities districts, city sources, Measure I funds, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds, and federal sources.

This project is included in the 2006 Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP) and the 2006 STIP. It is also listed in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and

San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) adopted Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), which was approved at the federal level on October 2, 2006.

Fact sheets for Advisory and Mandatory Design Exceptions were all approved by February 20, 2007.

The Department approved the Project Report on June 30, 2007. An Environmental Assessment/Initial Study was prepared by Parsons Brinkerhoff for the City of Victorville, and was approved by FHWA on April 27, 2006. On July 17, 2006, the Department approved a Negative Declaration, satisfying the California Environmental Quality Act. In a letter dated August 6, 2002, FHWA approved all of the alternatives in the New Connection Report dated June 2002. The Federal Highway Administration approved a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on August 29, 2006. This finding also constituted FHWA approval of the new connection. A concurrent environmental action is under item 2.2c.(3).

A superceding freeway agreement was signed by the City of Victorville on August 7, 2007, and will be executed by the Department after Commission approval of the new connection.

#### Attachments

Resolution S-734  
Vicinity Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection  
08-SBd-15 PM 38.8**

**Resolution S-734**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Victorville has requested approval of a new public road connection on Interstate 15 for La Mesa Road/Nisqualli Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Initial Study and Negative Declaration has been approved in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will have impacts to 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 Interstate 15 at La Mesa Road/Nisqualli Road, PM 38.8, in the city of Victorville.

Vicinity Map  
8-SBd-15, PM 38.8  
New Connection at La Mesa Road/Nisqualli Road

