THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# MANAGER'S REPORT

DATE ISSUED: May 16, 2001 REPORT NO. 01-098

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Docket of May 22, 2001

SUBJECT: Transfer of State Routes 209 and 274 to the City.

REFERENCE: None.

## SUMMARY


Issue - Should the City enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the State of California to transfer State Route 209 and State Route 274 to the City of San Diego?

Manager's Recommendation - Approve the Agreement.

Other Recommendation - None.

Fiscal Impact - As part of the transfer, the State will contribute seven excess parcels in the I-15/40th Street construction zone (valued at $2.5 million), and $8,156,000 in a lump sum cash payment, to be used to bring these roads to City standards. Of this amount, $282,000 is specifically earmarked as State matching funds for a Federal TEA-21 beautification project on Balboa Avenue; the City is committed to applying for the $683,000 in TEA-21 funds. The total contribution from all State and Federal sources is therefore $11,339,000. As a result of the transfer, the City will assume all maintenance, operational, and liability costs associated with these roadways at an estimated annual cost of $1,040,000.


## BACKGROUND

State Route 209 runs the length of Point Loma, changing names several times in its 8.1-mile length. From the north, these segments are:

1. Camino del Rio West, from Interstate 8 to Rosecrans Street/Sports Arena Boulevard;
2. Rosecrans Street, from Sports Arena Boulevard to Cañon Street;
3. Cañon Street, from Rosecrans Street to Catalina Boulevard;
4. Catalina Boulevard, from Cañon Street to the entrance of Fort Rosecrans; and
5. Cabrillo Memorial Drive, through Fort Rosecrans to the entrance of the Cabrillo National Monument.

Within Cabrillo National Monument, the roadway is under Federal jurisdiction.

State Route 274 consists entirely of Balboa Avenue, from Interstate 5 to Interstate 15, a length of 6.1 miles.

Local communities along these two State Routes have long advocated for improvements and amenities to these roadways, which are inappropriate for a state highway goal of maximizing traffic flow. Caltrans currently controls signal timing, speed limits, median improvements and landscaping, driveway placement, and parking restrictions on these roads. All of these responsibilities would transfer to the City under this agreement.

Legislation to allow for the transfer of these roads to the City, and their deletion from the state highway system, has been enacted by the State legislature.

DISCUSSION

Staff from the City and Caltrans have been negotiating for several years to develop this transfer. A primary condition for the City was that Caltrans either bring the roads up to City standards, or provide the funding to do so. As a result of these negotiations, Caltrans has agreed to provide funding for the following improvements:

| IMPROVEMENTS TO SR-274 | |
|---|---|
| Repair existing sidewalk and install new sidewalk where required | $3,400,000 |
| Landscape and hardscape existing medians and new median construction | 3,300,000 |
| Widen street to accommodate bike lanes | 1,350,000 |
| Install new traffic signals and modify existing signals | 260,000 |
| Install new street lights | 500,000 |
| | $8,810,000 |
| IMPROVEMENTS TO SR-209 | |
| Repair existing sidewalk, curb, and gutter and accommodate bike lanes | 1,600,000 |
| Upgrade and modify traffic signals | 12,000 |
| Upgrade street lights to HPS luminaries | 17,000 |
| Interconnect traffic signals | 700,000 |
| Install bus stop concrete pads and benches | 200,000 |
| | $2,529,000 |

| | |
|---|---|
| | $11,339,000 |

The State has committed to applying for Federal TEA-21 funds for the SR-274 median landscaping listed above, and is contributing the $282,000 local match amount for this project. The City is obligated to apply for the remaining $683,000 in TEA-21 funds after the beautification project has been completed. This amount is included in the $11,339,000.

Caltrans is proposing to transfer seven excess land parcels from the construction of the I-15/40th Street project (valued at $2,500,000) to the City as part of the relinquishment of SR-209 and SR-274. The value of these parcels would deducted from the $11,339,000. Therefore, Caltrans' actual lump-sum cash contribution would be reduced to $8,156,000.

Upon transfer of these roadways, the City would assume responsibility for all maintenance, operations, and liability issues on these streets. This includes maintenance and timing control of over 30 existing traffic signals, responding to citizen requests for traffic improvements that are currently handled by Caltrans, and maintenance of a total of over 14 miles of roadway. Estimated cost for maintenance and operations is $570,000 per year for SR-209, and $470,000 per year for SR-274.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not accept the transfer of State Routes 209 and 274 from the State of California. This is not recommended due to strong community support for local control of these two major roadways.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Cruz Gonzalez
Director, Transportation

Approved: George I. Loveland
Senior Deputy City Manager

LOVELAND/HOLDEN/BCJ