RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-246

MEETING: May 27, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Peter Rei, Public Works Director

RE: Approve a Resolution to Add Highway 49 to the National Highway System

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a Resolution Requesting Changes to the Federal Functional Classification System and National Highway System for Highway 49 Within Mariposa County to Add Highway 49 to the National Highway System.

The Federal Highway Administration administers the National Highway System for the entire country. In 2012 Congress Passed the current Transportation Bill entitled Moving Ahead for Progress in the Twenty-first Century (MAP21). This legislation modified the types of roadways that can be included in the National Highway System and resulted in many roadways classified as either a Principal Arterial or a Minor Arterial being added to the National Highway System.

At a recent meeting with Caltrans District 10 administrators the County was notified that Highway 140 is included in the National Highway System as a Principal Arterial but Highway 49 is not. The reason provided is that Highway 49 is not currently classified as a either a Principal Arterial or a Minor Arterial by the Federal Highway Administration, rather it is listed as a Major Collector. We were further notified that it is anticipated that in the future roads on the National Highway System will receive priority for roadway maintenance funding which Caltrans uses to pay for maintaining all of the roadways throughout California. We were told that this could mean that because Highway 49 is not in the National Highway System it would be at the low end of the priority list for such funding.

Highway 49 is a critical connection to all of the foothill counties beginning in Madera County in the south and progressing northward through Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties to its northern end in Plumas County. Because of the manner in which Highway 49 is used, the fact that it connects to many east/west State Highways, connects 10 foothill counties, and the type and volume of traffic it carries both Caltrans Planning staff and Public Works staff believe that it already functions as a Principal Arterial in the four counties within District 10 (Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras and Amador).
Caltrans Planning staff’s current plan is to request that the Board of Supervisors in Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, and Amador Counties pass resolutions in support of getting the classification of Highway 49 changed to a Principal Arterial. If this change is accepted by the Federal Highway Administration then this will allow Highway 49 to be added to the National Highway System.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
The Board could choose not to pass the Resolution. Such an action would leave Highway 49 as a Major Collector and it would not be eligible for inclusion in the National Highway System. This could affect the likelihood of future highway maintenance funding to Caltrans for maintaining roadways.

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor
SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
COUNTY of MARIPOSA
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222
KEVIN CANN, CHAIR
MERLIN JONES, VICE-CHAIR
LEE STETSON
JANET BIBBY
JOHN CARRIER
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT I
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT V

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTE ORDER

TO:        PETE REI, Public Works Director
FROM:      RENE’ LA ROCHE, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT:   Adopt a Resolution Requesting Changes to the Federal Functional Classification System and National Highway System for Highway 49 Within Mariposa County to Add Highway 49 to the National Highway System

RES. 14-246

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on May 27, 2014

ACTION AND VOTE:

3. Public Works RES-2014-246

Adopt a Resolution Requesting Changes to the Federal Functional Classification System and National Highway System for Highway 49 Within Mariposa County to Add Highway 49 to the National Highway System

Peter Rei introduced John Gedney/Chief, Rural Planning and Administration, Caltrans District 10 who provided a brief background of this action, and who reported that Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties are unanimously in support of this designation.

Supervisor Carrier inquired if there would be any types of controls with this designation. Mr. Gedney responded that there are some controls in place regarding billboards and junk yards, but no controls on encroachments; and noted that this is a program to get the facilities eligible for the National Highway Protection Program funds that come from the Federal Government. Supervisor Carrier inquired if it would be helpful to Caltrans if the Board also drafted letters to Tom McClintock, Barbara Boxer, and Dianne Feinstein. Mr. Gedney responded that any additional support would be helpful. Supervisor Cann discussed the proposed letter, and whether it could be one letter which notes that the Board also acts as the Local Transportation Commission. Mr. Rei responded that he can structure it to so indicate. Supervisor Cann remarked that it might need two separate actions. County Counsel concurred off microphone. Mr. Rei noted they can bring it back on June 10th for the commission’s action.

Supervisor Bibby noted that a copy of the resolution will accompany any letter; and inquired if there is larger setback required as far as structures. Mr.
Gedney responded that there are no requirements as far as upgrades, but that the Caltrans design manual would need to be used if local funds are utilized to upgrade a facility. Supervisor Cann inquired as to whether a copy of the letter would be sufficient to send to the Federal representatives. Mr. Gedney affirmed. Supervisor Jones required clarification regarding Highway 132. Mr. Gedney responded that it probably will be looked into; remarked that this is gaining momentum; and noted that Calaveras County is interested in upgrading State Route 4 from the Port of Stockton up into Bear Valley, and Amador County is interested in upgrading State Route 16. Supervisor Jones required clarification of whether it would need to originate with Stanislaus County. Mr. Gedney affirmed that it would have to originate with Stanislaus and partner counties; and that he can work with staff to work through the process.

Supervisor Carrier inquired if it would be appropriate to have a cover letter accompany the resolution to request support from our representatives. Steven W. Dahlem/County Counsel responded that the Board could give direction to staff to include that letter with a copy of the resolution.

Supervisor Stetson inquired if being added to the national highway system would prevent naming the highway anything in particular. Mr. Gedney responded that it would not.

No public input.

Supervisor Carrier moved to approve the item, with the addition of a cover letter to our congressman and federal senators; seconded by Supervisor Stetson; approved unanimously.

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor
SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier

Cc: File
RESOLUTION NO. 14-246

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FEDERAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation is working in consultation and coordination with regional transportation planning agencies, counties, and cities along the State Route (SR) 49 corridor; and,

WHEREAS, functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide, and functional classification is used in determining federal funding eligibility for roadway improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Mariposa periodically reviews the system of streets and highways under its jurisdiction for appropriate changes to classification of the various segments of the system; and,

WHEREAS, a recent review of SR 49, which runs north-south and traverses four counties within the California Department of Transportation District 10, has revealed the need for a change to the Federal Functional Classification and National Highway System (NHS) classification of SR 49; and,

WHEREAS, SR 49 meets the Average Daily Traffic, Truck Volume and Population-Served criteria that provides justification for the Principal Arterial classification; and,

WHEREAS, SR 49 is operating as a Principal Arterial and serves interregional travel consisting of goods and freight movement, commuters, recreation travelers; and,

WHEREAS, SR 49 serves economic development among the various historical communities in California's Mother Lode district, including Yosemite National Park and other world-class travel destinations; and,

WHEREAS, SR 49, provides a corridor that meets NHS national security and mobility interests, offering a critical alternative parallel corridor to State Route (SR) 99 and Interstate 5, and connecting to and with existing NHS east-west corridors serving the Northern California and Nevada regions, such as SR 88, SR 108/120, SR 140, SR 41, SR 50 and Interstate 80; and,

WHEREAS, County of Mariposa recommends that SR 49 meets the criteria to be included in the NHS and enhances the characteristics of the NHS, funded through Map-21, and requests that it be included in the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) in order for it to be eligible for NHPP funding to help meet statewide NHS performance measures for roadway condition, safety, mobility, and freight movement; and,

WHEREAS, if SR 49 is upgraded to a Principal Arterial and included in the NHS, there is no requirement to provide upgrades to the facility, but if improvement plans are proposed, those plans must conform to Caltrans Highway Design Manual standards, including the implementation of Context Sensitive Solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Mariposa hereby request changes to the Federal Functional Classification System and National Highway system for Highway 49 within Mariposa County.

PASSED and ADOPTED the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, this 27th day of May, 2014.

KEVIN CANN, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

RENE LAROCHE, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

STEVEN W. DAHLEM, County Counsel