



## Town Council Agenda Report

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Date: May 26, 2020 Item No. 9

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

Subject: SR18/APPLE VALLEY ROAD INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT PROJECT - REVIEW BID DOCUMENTS AND AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE FOR CONSTRUCTION.

From: Douglas Robertson, Town Manager

Submitted by: Brad Miller, Town Engineer  
Engineering Department

Budgeted Item:  Yes  No  N/A

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION

- A. That the Town Council review and approve the bid documents for the SR18/Apple Valley Road Intersection Realignment – Project no. 2020-05;
- B. That the Town Council authorize staff to advertise and solicit bids for construction of said project.

### BACKGROUND

State Route 18 is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System, in Apple Valley and west of I-15, is also part of the National Highway System, a network of highways that are considered essential to the country's economy, defense, and mobility by the Federal Highway Administration. State Route 18 serves interregional, intraregional, local traffic and passes through the majority of Apple Valley's existing commercial and industrial areas. It has served as the Town's "Main Street" for more than six decades.

State Route 18 is also identified as a Terminal Access Route, which allows trucks to use it for travel between national network routes and access to an operating destination or handling facilities. As such, this roadway is a vital part of the region's circulation and goods movement network.

Planning for the widening and rehabilitation of State Route 18 has been underway for more than a decade. A Project Study Report (PSR) was prepared by Caltrans District 8 in December 2006. The needed improvements identified in the PSR included three through lanes in each direction along State Route 18. Subsequent to the completion of the PSR, Apple Valley began planning a project in 2008 to improve the vertical profile

through the intersection of Apple Valley Road and State Route 18, while designing and constructing improvements on State Route 18 that were consistent with the PSR.

A traffic impact analysis was completed in August 2009 to evaluate traffic circulation at the proposed project intersection. Existing traffic conditions were evaluated, and future traffic volumes were forecasted in the Traffic Impact Analysis Report (2009). Projections for a 2035 scenario without improvements included doubling of current average daily traffic volumes and daily peak volumes. The average delays per vehicle were forecasted to be six times greater than current conditions. Acceptable traffic configurations were proposed in this report and are incorporated into the project design. Additionally, road surface quality in Apple Valley and at the intersection is deteriorating. Channels and dips currently comprise the surface water control system at the intersection. This creates a roller coaster effect resulting in traffic slowdown. Over the past 10 years traffic volume has grown and congestion at the project intersection has increased resulting in increased greenhouse gas emissions as well as potential for greater vehicular and pedestrian accidents. Wait times are lengthy, ranging between 35 and greater than 80 seconds average delay per car.

Interestingly, a Caltrans 2016 High Desert Work Force Report found that 67% of Apple Valley's active workers leave the area for employment. This factor explains that traffic in Apple Valley is concentrated on State Route 18 and the other two crossings over the Mojave River; all being vitally important to connecting Apple Valley residents to jobs that they reach outside of the immediate area. Because Apple Valley is part of a vast high desert region distinguished by its tremendous growth in recent decades. It is important that we find ways in our communities to support smart growth and sustainable practices that prepare us for the future. In addition to the proposed project, other plans are underway for State Route 18 in Apple Valley. This first phase of construction (i.e., the proposed project) to rehabilitate the most pressing problems on State Route 18 is vital, not only for local traffic but regional traffic as well.

In November of 2008 the Town hired Dokken Engineering as a consultant to design the intersection realignment and environmental compliance services. The current status of the project is as follows: CEQA – Initial Study with a Mitigated Negative Declaration revalidated on April 30, 2019 and approved for future consideration of funding by the CTC on May 13, 2020; Caltrans issued the project's Right-of-Way certification on March 16, 2020 and the California Transportation Commission allocated SB-1 LPP funding for this project on May 13, 2020.

## **ANALYSIS**

Engineering Department staff has verified that the project's Plans, Specifications and Engineer's Estimate were finalized and the project is ready to be advertised and go out to bid.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for this project is shown in the Town Council approved 2019-2020 Capital Improvements Projects Budget for the fiscal Years of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. There is no immediate fiscal impact with approval of the bid documents and authorization to advertise for bids.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Vicinity Map.

# Attachment A

## Vicinity Map

