

Date of Hearing: April 17, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 810 (Gallagher) – As Introduced February 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Local alternative transportation improvement program: Feather River crossing

SUMMARY: Authorizes the development of a local alternative transportation improvement program (LATIP) in Sutter and Yuba counties. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes the City of Yuba City and the Counties of Sutter and Yuba, acting jointly with a transportation planning agency, to develop and file with the California Transportation Commission (CTC) a LATIP to replace a long-stalled state transportation project for a Feather River crossing.
- 2) Provides that the CTC is to have final approval authority of the LATIP, and provides that no LATIP shall be submitted to the CTC after July 1, 2020.
- 3) Directs the proceeds from the sale of properties previously purchased for the state-planned project, less any needed reimbursements and costs to sell the properties, to be allocated by the CTC to fund the LATIP, and exempts these proceeds from north/south split and county share formulas.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Allows the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to acquire any real property that it considers necessary for state highway purposes.
- 2) Allows Caltrans, whenever it determines that any real property acquired by the state for highway purposes is no longer necessary for those purposes, to sell or exchange it in the manner and upon terms, standards, and conditions established by CTC.
- 3) Requires Caltrans, to the greatest extent possible, to offer to sell or exchange excess real property within one year from the date that it determines the property is excess.
- 4) Generally requires state and local agencies, prior to disposing of excess lands, first to offer property for sale or lease to local public agencies for public purposes.
- 5) Directs the proceeds from the sale of excess property to be deposited first to the State Highway Account and then transferred to the Transportation Debt Service Fund to pay debt service on general obligation transportation bonds.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: The author introduced this bill to facilitate a Feather River crossing project proposed by Yuba City and Yuba and Sutter Counties. The project would replace an earlier Caltrans project that the department is no longer pursuing. The state project was proposed to be built at Bogue Road and would have crossed the river to connect to the Feather River Parkway. In anticipation of the project being built, Caltrans purchased approximately 138 acres of property in the 1990's, valued at roughly \$7 million at the time of purchase. Subsequently, Caltrans

started the environmental review process for the project but never completed it. An initial value analysis study indicated the cost of the crossing was exceptionally high due to the need to raise the roadway out of the floodplain so that it would provide continuous access during flood events. As a result of this study, Caltrans shelved the project and the project has languished since. Caltrans has determined that most of the property previously purchased for the original project is excess and is holding on to the properties in anticipation of the local agencies needing them for a locally developed Feather River crossing project.

Like the Feather River bridge project, other projects elsewhere in the state have similarly languished and similarly left property unused for decades. To remedy one of these projects, the State Route (SR) 238 Hayward Bypass project, legislation was passed, SB 1711 (Holmdahl), Chapter 799, Statutes of 1982, to allow local transportation authorities to develop an alternative plan to the SR 238 project and required them to submit that plan to CTC by January 1, 1986, after which the commission was barred from approving any alternative plan. SB 296 (Lockyer), Chapter 494, Statutes of 1985, extended the deadline to January 1, 1988. Both these deadlines went unmet.

SB 509 (Figueroa), Chapter 611, Statutes of 2004, revived the LATIP process and established a new deadline of January 1, 2010. AB 1462 (Torrico), Chapter 619, Statutes of 2005, added SR 84 to provisions providing for the LATIP in Alameda County. SB 791 (Corbett), Chapter 705, Statutes of 2008, authorized the use of revenues from sales of excess properties for projects in the LATIP that are also in the local voter-approved transportation sales tax measure, subject to approval by Caltrans. Ultimately, the CTC rescinded the adopted SR 238 freeway adoption, thereby closing the books on that state project.

This authorizes a LATIP process for the Feather River crossing, much like the previously authorized LATIP process to replace the stalled SR 238 Hayward Bypass project. Furthermore, this bill authorizes the Caltrans' excess property to be sold and the proceeds to be directed to the fund the LATIP, again, following the model used for the Hayward LATIP.

Absent this legislation, Caltrans will likely sell the excess properties and the proceeds will be directed to the General Fund. Without those proceeds, it is doubtful Yuba and Sutter Counties will realize the transportation benefits originally sought for the area since as far back as the 1980s.

Related legislation: AB 696 (Caballero) directs proceeds from the sale of surplus property originally purchased for the Prunedale Bypass to the State Highway Account for highway projects in the State Highway 101 corridor in Monterey County, and exempts these proceeds from the north/south split and county share formulas. AB 696 passed out of this committee with a 10-2 vote, and is currently awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Previous legislation: AB 2730 (Alejo) of 2016 was identical to this bill, and would have directed proceeds from the sale of property in Monterey County to other highway projects in the State Highway 101 corridor in Monterey County. AB 2730 passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Brown because of the bill's General Fund impact.

SB 416 (Liu), Chapter 468, Statutes of 2013, directed the revenue from the sale of surplus properties in the SR 710 corridor in Los Angeles County to local transportation improvements.

SB 791 (Corbett), Chapter 705, Statutes of 2008, authorized the use of revenues from sales of excess properties for projects in the LATIP.

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SB 509 (Figueroa), Chapter 611, Statutes of 2004, revived the LATIP process and established a new deadline of January 1, 2010.

SB 296 (Lockyer), Chapter 494, Statutes of 1985, extended the deadline to submit the LATIP to January 1, 1988.

SB 1711 (Holmdahl), Chapter 799, Statutes of 1982, allowed local transportation authorities to develop a LATIP for the SR 238 project by January 1, 1986.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

City of Yuba City
Yuba County Board of Supervisors
Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Janet Dawson / TRANS. /