

Date of Hearing: April 18, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

AB 2254 (Muratsuchi) – As Amended March 24, 2022

SUBJECT: State highways: Route 107: relinquishment

SUMMARY: Authorizes the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the City of Redondo Beach all or a portion of State Route 107 within the city's jurisdiction.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines a "state highway" as any roadway that is acquired, laid out, constructed, improved, or maintained as a state highway pursuant to constitutional or legislative authorization.
- 2) Statutorily identifies state highway system routes.
- 3) Specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature that the prescribed routes of the state highway system connect communities and regions of the state and that they serve the state's economy by connecting centers of commerce, industry, agriculture, mineral wealth, and recreation.
- 4) Allows the relinquishment of portions of state highways to local government control.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Relinquishment is defined as the statutory conveyance of all rights, title, interests, liability, and maintenance responsibilities of a state highway, or portion thereof, to another government entity, according to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) 2018 Project Development Procedures Manual. California Streets and Highways Code, Section 73 authorizes the CTC to relinquish transportation facilities to cities and counties.. The relinquished facilities become city streets or county roads. Section 73 identifies four types of relinquishments: legislative enactment, superseded by relocation, collateral facility, or a non-motorized transportation facility.

Each session, bills authorizing the relinquishment of segments of state highways to local jurisdictions are passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Relinquishment transactions are generally preceded by a negotiation of terms and conditions between the local jurisdiction and Caltrans. Once an agreement has been established, the Legislature can delete the portion of a highway from the Streets and Highways Code or authorize CTC to relinquish the segment. The CTC then approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via resolution. The relinquishment takes effect only after CTC approval and a certified copy of the relinquishment resolution is recorded in the county office of the recorder.

This bill is consistent with Caltrans' policy of encouraging the relinquishment of state highways that do not serve regional or statewide transportation needs. Recipient agencies often seek relinquishment of state highways so that they can have greater control over the facility, which often serves as a local street.

SR 107 in Torrance and Redondo Beach: The cities of Redondo Beach and Torrance are crossed by state highways that Caltrans controls and maintains. In Redondo Beach, Pacific Coast Highway (SR 1) and Hawthorne Boulevard (SR 107) are the two such highways. When a city needs to make improvements to the roadways under Caltrans control there is a long permitting process that significantly slows city responsiveness. Additionally, the state is in control of traffic operations and making changes for these arterials that seem appropriate at the community level do not always get Caltrans approval.

Redondo Beach conducted an Administrative Report to the Mayor and City Council for the April 20th, 2021 City Council Meeting based on direction to staff to seek further information regarding state relinquishment of SR 107, within the boundaries of Redondo Beach. City staff has coordinated this report with information provided by the City of Torrance and Caltrans District 7 office.

Torrance gained relinquishment of SR 107 in 2008. Recently, Torrance requested that the local (District 7) office of Caltrans begin its study to determine if and how relinquishment is to be done. In performing their study, Caltrans staff determined that relinquishment of SR 107 to the City of Torrance would leave two remaining “islands” of state controlled right of way in Redondo Beach along Hawthorne Boulevard. This is not a circumstance that is conducive to good stewardship, as maintenance and operations of these islands will not be efficient for Caltrans, and may be neglected. Therefore, Caltrans now requires that these portions must also be relinquished to the city in which they are located, that is, Redondo Beach.

Responsibility for the maintenance of the roadway would fall to the underlying city. Signalized intersections that share a jurisdiction are typically maintained by only one of the agencies by mutual consent due to the interconnected nature of traffic signal components. Payment for such maintenance is proportionately shared by the jurisdictions. The cities of Redondo Beach and Torrance currently pay Caltrans for their respective share of traffic signal maintenance.

According to the author, “AB 2254 is a district bill which requires the State to begin the process to relinquish highway classification and control of State Route 107 in Redondo Beach to the City of Redondo Beach. This bill will eliminate the burdensome process requiring the City of Redondo Beach to apply for a Department of Transportation permit for any needed improvements on Hawthorne Boulevard section of State Route 107.”

Previous legislation: AB 774 (Rodriguez), Chapter 198, Statutes of 2021 authorizes the CTC to relinquish to the City of Ontario all or a portion of State Route 83 within the city’s jurisdiction.

AB 2172 (Petrie-Norris), Chapter 126, Statutes of 2020 allows the CTC to relinquish a portion of SR 133 to the City of Laguna Beach.

SB 921 (Dahle), Chapter 82, Statutes of 2020 allows the CTC to relinquish a portion of SR 174 to the City of Grass Valley.

SB 1459 (Caballero), Chapter 83, Statutes of 2020 allows the CTC to relinquish a portion of SR 183 to the City of Salinas.

AB 1456 (Kiley), Chapter 629, Statutes of 2019 authorizes the CTC to relinquish a portion of SR 193 to the City of Lincoln within its city limits.

SB 1318 (Transportation), Chapter 491, Statutes of 2010 makes non-controversial changes to sections of law relating to transportation and housing, including cleaning up a number of old relinquishment statutes so that they conform to the standard format.

AB 2326 (Lieu), Chapter 639, Statutes of 2008 authorizes the relinquishment of portions of State Route 107 (Hawthorn Boulevard) and State Route 1 to the City of Torrance.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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