

Date of Hearing: August 26, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SB 479 (Atkins) – As Amended August 3, 2019

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** State highways: relinquishment: Routes 75 and 282

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the City of Coronado the portions of State Route (SR) 75 within its city limits and the entirety of SR 282. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes the CTC to relinquish to the City of Coronado the portions of SR 75 within its city limits.
- 2) Authorizes CTC to relinquish SR 282 in its entirety to the City of Coronado.
- 3) Provides that the relinquishments proceed only upon an agreement being reached between the City of Coronado and the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and if CTC determines that it is in the best interest of the state.
- 4) Requires, upon relinquishment, that the City of Coronado ensure continuity of traffic flow for the routes, maintain signage directing motorists to the continuation of the routes as deemed necessary by Caltrans, and ensure the continued viability of the routes as Strategic Highway Network Connectors within the Federal Highway System.
- 5) Requires the City of Coronado to seek concurrence with the affected military installation before taking certain actions on the relinquished routes.
- 6) Requires the City of Coronado to wait no more than 60 days for a response before they are authorized to take the proposed action, unless the military installation is required to conduct formal state or federal studies related to the impact of the proposed action.

**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.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** Each session, numerous bills authorizing CTC to relinquish segments of the state highway 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 authorizes CTC to relinquish the segment, and CTC then approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via resolution. The final step is for the Legislature to delete these segments from current law.

Caltrans' policy encourages 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 75 and SR 282 are Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) Connectors, additional highway routes linking over 200 important military installations and ports to STRAHNET. These routes are typically used when moving personnel and equipment during a mobilization or deployment. This bill requires the City of Coronado to seek concurrence with the affected military installation before taking actions on the relinquished routes, so that the route's viability as a STRAHNET connector is not diminished. These actions include changes to improve public safety, alter traffic flow, place restrictions on the type of cargo that may be transported on the relinquished routes, or limit the weight or dimensions of vehicles that may use the relinquished routes.

According to the author, "On June 16, 2020, the Coronado City Council voted unanimously (5-0) to request relinquishment of the portions of SR 75 and SR 282 within the city boundaries. Relinquishment will provide Coronado with greater control over local transportation projects, and relieves Caltrans of any further responsibility to improve, maintain, or repair infrastructure related to the relinquished segments."

The City of Coronado, sponsors of the bill, write in support, "the City of Coronado City Council concluded that it is in the City's best interest to take over ownership of the State Routes through Coronado. Ownership will provide for greater local control of the roadways and associated rights-of-way within the confines of State Law. Local ownership will allow for a greater level of maintenance via a regular preventative maintenance schedule, and local control will protect Coronado's unique landscaped median parks from alteration or interference by the State."

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

City of Coronado (Sponsor)  
Naval Base Coronado

### **Opposition**

None on file

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