

Date of Hearing: August 10, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SB 921 (Dahle) – As Introduced February 4, 2020

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: State highways: Route 174: relinquishment

SUMMARY: Allows the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish a portion of State Route (SR) 174 to the City of Grass Valley. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes CTC, upon determining it is in the best interest of the state and upon an agreement being reached between the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Grass Valley, to relinquish a portion of SR 174 to the City of Grass Valley.
- 2) Requires the City of Grass Valley to ensure continuity of traffic flow on the relinquished portion of SR 174 and maintain signs within its jurisdiction directing motorists to the continuation of SR 174.
- 3) Specifies that following the effective date of relinquishment, the relinquished segment will no longer be a state highway and may not be considered for future adoption as a state highway.

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: According to Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill will result in “unknown one-time Caltrans costs ranging from minor to potentially over \$1 million prior to the relinquishment of the designated segment of SR 174 to the City of Grass Valley (State Highway Account). These costs would be offset in future years due to avoided maintenance costs on the relinquished segment.”

COMMENTS: Each session, numerous bills authorizing CTC to relinquish 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 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.

This bill is consistent with Caltrans' policy 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.

This portion of SR 174 is a two-lane road with sidewalks and bicycle lanes, which goes through downtown Grass Valley. Caltrans has a \$2.8 million road upgrade project (State Highway Operation and Protection Program) scheduled for the end of 2021 for the portion of SR 174 that is covered by this bill. If this bill becomes law, this funding could be transferred to the City of Grass Valley to achieve those same purposes.

According to the author, "SB 921 will allow Caltrans to relinquish a portion of State Highway 174 within the city limits of Grass Valley, CA. Since this section goes through town and isn't a top priority for Caltrans, it often is in ill repair. This will allow the City to take over repairs and maintenance of this stretch of highway and will allow them to do improvements that will enhance parking options and allow for more curbside options for area businesses given our current COVID-19 situation."

The City of Grass Valley writes in support, "Ownership of this roadway would allow us to better maintain the underground utilities in this area. We already manage these utilities but would be able to manage them more efficiently if they were in our right of way."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

City of Grass Valley

Opposition

None on file

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