

Date of Hearing: March 19, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Lori D. Wilson, Chair  
AB 2082 (Juan Carrillo) – As Introduced February 5, 2024

**SUBJECT:** State highways: State Route 138: reduction

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the City of Palmdale all or a portion of State Route (SR) 138 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. (Streets and Highways Code (SHC) Section 24)
- 2) Statutorily identifies state highway system routes. (SHC Section 300-365)
- 3) Establishes SR 138 as from:
  - a) Route 5 near Gorman to Route 14 near Lancaster; and,
  - b) Route 14 near Palmdale to Route 18 near Crestline. (SHC 438)

**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 (Caltrans) 2018 Project Development Procedures Manual. Caltrans possesses and controls all state highways. 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 Section 73 identifies four types of relinquishments: legislative enactment, superseded by relocation, collateral facility, or a non-motorized transportation facility.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, numerous 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 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 183.* Located in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, California 138 is a major east-west highway in the High Desert, linking Interstate 5 near Gorman with Interstate 15 near Mormon Rocks and California 18 near Crestline. California 138 connects to other state routes, including an overlap with California 14 (Antelope Valley Freeway) through Lancaster and Palmdale as well as a link to California 2 (Angeles Crest Highway) near Wrightwood.

California 138 parallels the San Andreas Fault along the northern edge of the San Gabriel Mountains.

*Palmdale improvements.* The City of Palmdale wishes to pursue projects on Palmdale Blvd that encompass various maintenance and development initiatives aimed at enhancing economic development along the corridor and improving the quality of life for residents in the city of Palmdale. Currently designated as part of SR 138, Palmdale Blvd requires the city to seek permission from Caltrans for any encroachments, including planned improvements, maintenance, and operational needs. The city cites this process adds complexity to projects, necessitating an additional layer of approval.

*According to the author,* “As a former Councilmember for the City of Palmdale, I am familiar with some of the challenges that come from not having possession of specific portions of the state highway that exists within city limits. Since Palmdale Boulevard runs through the heart of the City, the City’s vision is to revitalize and transform it into a vibrant downtown to further promote economic development, prosperity and improve the quality of life in Assembly District 39. This bill is the first step in achieving this goal so that the City can move forward with necessary maintenance and public works projects.”

*Previous legislation.* 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 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.

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 744 (Rodriguez), Chapter 198, Statutes of 2022 authorizes the CTC to relinquish to the City of Ontario all or a portion of SR 83 within the city’s jurisdiction.

AB 250 (Rodriguez), Chapter 516, Statutes of 2023 authorizes the CTC to relinquish to the City of Chino all or a portion of State Route (SR) 83 within the city’s jurisdiction.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Julia Kingsley / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093