

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Regional Network Management Committee**

March 8, 2024

Agenda Item 3c

**MTC Resolution No. 4634 - Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Napa Valley
Forward: State Route 29 (SR-29) Intersection Improvement at Rutherford Road and
Oakville Cross Road**

Subject:

A request to refer MTC Resolution No. 4634 to the Commission for approval to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Napa Valley Forward: SR-29 Intersection Improvement at Rutherford Road and Oakville Cross Road (the Project).

Background:

The SR-29 corridor traverses through the communities of Rutherford, Oakville, and Yountville in Napa County. It serves as a key route that provides north-south connectivity within Napa Valley. The SR-29 corridor experiences heavy traffic congestion during the peak periods. To improve traffic operations along the corridor, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) and MTC propose to deliver intersection improvements on SR-29 at Rutherford Road and Oakville Cross Road. The Project will be constructed within State right-of-way in which a Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is necessary.

On February 28, 2022, MTC entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans to prepare the required project planning documents, including the Project Initiation Document, Project Approval and Environmental Document phases of the work, referred to as the PID/PA&ED Cooperative Agreement. Under the PID/PA&ED Cooperative Agreement, MTC is responsible for preparing a Project Study Report – Project Report (PSR-PR) and an environmental document for the Project. The PSR-PR and the environmental document are in the final stage of completion.

MTC and NVTA, as Project Co-Sponsors, wish to establish a three-party Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans to continue the remaining phases of work including final design, right-of-way, and construction. The execution of the three-party Cooperative Agreement for the subsequent phases of work is conditioned on the completion of obligations and responsibilities assigned to MTC under the PID/PA&ED Cooperative Agreement, including the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

Caltrans delegated to MTC the CEQA Lead Agency role for the Project to prepare and submit the required CEQA environmental documentation and technical studies for Caltrans' review. MTC completed an Initial Study and the findings were documented in the MND, which concluded that all impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. The MND was released for public review between November 29, 2023, and January 2, 2024. The MND and a Notice of Intent to consider the adoption of the MND were posted in the Napa Valley Register, at the Napa County Clerk's office, and online at MTC's website for public review and comment. Hardcopies of the documents were also made available to the public at NVTA's office in Napa County. MTC evaluated all comments received on the MND during the comment period and prepared written responses to each party; these responses and text revisions are also incorporated in the final MND (Attachments B and C). None of the comments or revisions resulted in a change in conclusion of the MND.

MTC staff seeks Commission approval of MTC Resolution No. 4634 to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project. Approval of the MTC-NVTA-Caltrans Cooperative Agreement is conditioned on Commission approval of MTC Resolution No. 4634, as referenced in the March 8, 2024 MTC Regional Network Management Committee Agenda Item No. 3d.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4634 to the Commission for approval to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Napa Valley Forward: SR-29 Operational and Safety Improvements.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: MTC Resolution No. 4634
- Attachment B: State Route 29 Improvements at Rutherford Road and Oakville Cross Road Intersections Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)
- Attachment C: Responses to comments on proposed MND



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