
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Lena Gonzalez, Chair

2023 - 2024 Regular

Bill No:	SB 606	Hearing Date:	4/11/2023
Author:	Alvarado-Gil		
Version:	4/10/2023 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Jacob O'Connor		

SUBJECT: State highways: State Route 203: reduction

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the California Transportation Commission to relinquish to the Town of Mammoth Lakes all or a portion of Route 203 within its jurisdiction.

ANALYSIS:

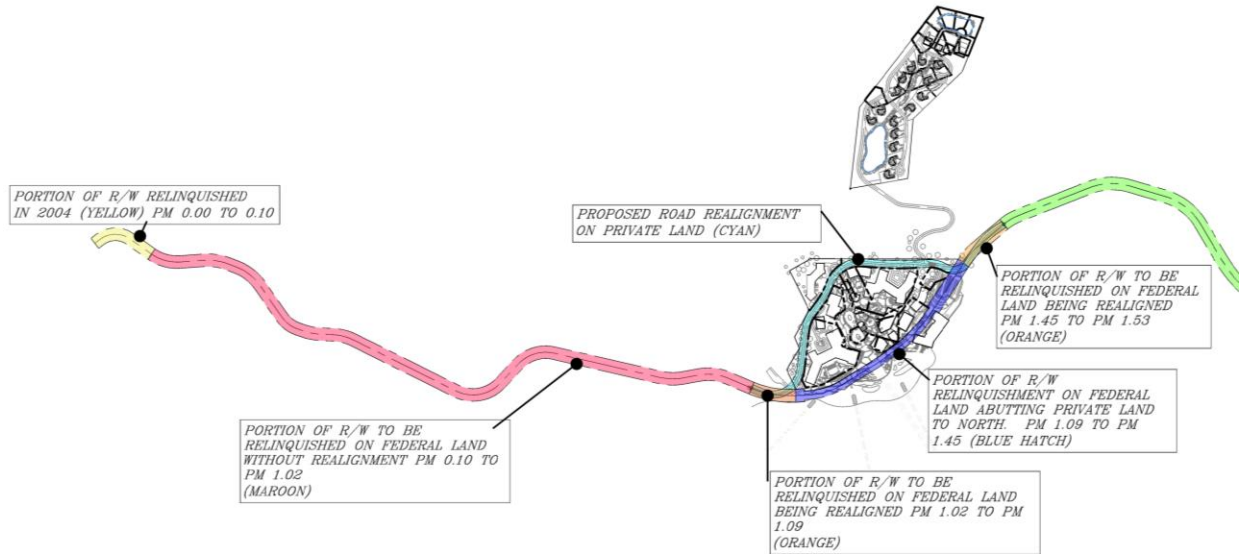
Existing law:

- 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) §24)
- 2) Statutorily identifies state highway system routes through a description of segments of the state’s regional and interregional roads that are owned and operated by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans). (SHC Article 3)
- 3) Defines Route 304 as from the Mono county line near Minaret Summit to Route 395. (SHC §503)
- 4) 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. (SHC §300)
- 5) Allows the relinquishment of portions of state highways to local government control through a statutory process requiring the CTC to make findings that it is in the best interest of the state to include or delete a specified portion of roadway from the system. (SHC §73)

This bill authorizes the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the Town of Mammoth Lakes all or a portion of Route 203 within its jurisdiction relinquishment if the city and Caltrans enter into an agreement providing for the relinquishment.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose of bill.* According to the author, “SB 606 will support economic development, improve traffic circulation, and preserve public access to natural resources in Mono County by relinquishing a portion of State Route 203 to the Town of Mammoth Lakes.”
- 2) *Relinquishments.* Each session, the Legislature passes and the governor signs numerous bills authorizing CTC to relinquish segments of the state highway system to local jurisdictions. Relinquishment transactions are generally preceded by a negotiation of terms and conditions between the local jurisdiction and Caltrans. Once an agreement has been established, CTC typically approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via a resolution.
- 3) *Route 203.* Route 203 stretches west to east between Minaret Summit and U.S Route 395 in Mono County. The Route passes through the town of Mammoth Lakes, connecting it to the U.S. route and rural communities to the west. Minaret Summit receives significant snowfall in the winter and the highway is usually closed during the winter between the Summit and the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.
- 4) *A Mammoth undertaking.* This bill is primarily supported by the town of Mammoth Lakes and the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, a 20-acre recreational development. The Ski Area is undergoing a redevelopment project. As part of this project the Area plans to build a new road that will be on the southern side of the lodge that will give visitors access to both sides of the lodge (see proposed plan below). This plan also includes building a new transit hub at the base of the lodge to make it more accessible to public transit and improve traffic circulation in the community. In order to do this, they need to make an addition to and diversion of the existing route, requiring relinquishment.

**RELATED LEGISLATION:**

None

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

Unknown

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, April, 5, 2023.)**SUPPORT:**

None received

OPPOSITION:

None received

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