

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 71
Author: Kalra (D), et al.
Amended: 6/19/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 14-0, 1/13/26
AYES: Cortese, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Menjivar, Pérez, Richardson, Seyarto, Umberg, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Little Saigon Freeway

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution designates the portion of State Route 101, from Story Road, at postmile 34.224, to the junction with State Highway Route 280 and State Highway Route 680, at postmile 34.873, in the County of Santa Clara, as the Little Saigon Freeway.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law assigns the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

Committee Policy:

The committee has adopted a policy regarding the naming of state highways or structures. Under the policy, the committee will consider only those resolutions that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The person being honored must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway or structure is located.
- 2) The person being honored must be deceased or a former elected public official who has been out of office for at least 25 years.
- 3) The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
- 4) The author or co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
- 5) The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.
- 6) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
- 7) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

This resolution:

- 1) Recounts the role of Little Saigon as a major cultural, social, and commercial center for the Vietnamese community in the City of San Jose.
- 2) Designates the portion of State Route 101, from Story Road, at postmile 34.224, to the junction with State Highway Route 280 and State Highway Route 680, at postmile 34.873, in the County of Santa Clara, as the Little Saigon Freeway.
- 3) Requests Caltrans to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs.

Comments

Purpose of the resolution. According to the author, “The City of San Jose is home to the largest Vietnamese community in any city in the U.S., with the Little Saigon area serving as a major cultural, social, and commercial hub. Recognizing its significance, in 2007, the City of San Jose officially designated this area along Story Road as ‘Little Saigon.’ ACR 71 would ensure future generations can honor and recognize the many contributions of the Vietnamese community by designating a portion of State Route 101 in the City of San Jose as the Little Saigon Freeway.”

Background. Since April 1975, when the capital of South Vietnam fell, approximately 2,300,000 people of Vietnamese origin have become permanent residents or citizens of the United States, 140,000 of whom are residents of the County of Santa Clara, with the City of San Jose claiming home to the highest population of people of Vietnamese origin per area outside of Vietnam.

In 2007, the City of San Jose recognized the importance of Little Saigon as a major cultural, social, and commercial center for the Vietnamese community and officially designated the area along Story Road as “Little Saigon.” “Little Saigon” recalls the name of the South Vietnamese capital decades after it was renamed.

Little Saigon is a destination for tourists and refugees from all over the world. One can find all types of services and businesses in Little Saigon, including restaurants, supermarkets, shopping malls, banks, and jewelry stores serving the Vietnamese American community, as well as other local and surrounding area residents in the City of San Jose. Tết festivals and parades in Little Saigon celebrating the Vietnamese lunar new year have attracted thousands of participants.

Consistent with committee policy. This resolution is consistent with Senate Transportation Committee Highway Naming policy.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 1/20/26)

Advanced Consulting, LLC
California Young Democrats
City of San Jose, Councilmember Bien Doan
County of Santa Clara
East Side Union High School District

Miss Vietnam California
North East Medical Services
San Jose; City of
Santa Clara County Board of Education Trustee Tara Sreekrishnan
The Northern California Association of Friends From Tây Ninh
The United Vietnamese American Community of Northern California
Vietnamese American Professional Women of Silicon Valley

OPPOSITION: (Verified 1/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Writing in support of the resolution, the United Vietnamese American Community of Northern California states, “[t]his resolution carries profound meaning for the Vietnamese American community. The Little Saigon district in San Jose is more than a cultural and economic hub—it represents the resilience, sacrifice, and achievements of generations of Vietnamese refugees and immigrants who rebuilt their lives in the United States after the Vietnam War. By naming this segment of Highway 101 the ‘Little Saigon Freeway,’ the State of California formally recognizes the legacy, heritage, and enduring contributions of the Vietnamese American community in Santa Clara County and throughout the state. It is a meaningful tribute that affirms the importance of diversity, inclusion, and cultural preservation in our shared civic spaces.”

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1/21/26 16:05:33

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