



January 27, 2025

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with the City of Santa Ana for the First Street Multimodal Boulevard Study

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority has received grant funds for the First Street Multimodal Boulevard Study. The purpose of the grant is to assess the opportunity for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements along First Street in the City of Santa Ana. The grant requires a cooperative agreement between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the City of Santa Ana. Board of Directors' approval of the cooperative agreement is requested.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-4-2053 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the City of Santa Ana, in an amount up to \$4,300,000, for the First Street Multimodal Boulevard Study.
- B. Authorize staff to make all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and execute any necessary agreements to facilitate the recommendations above.

Discussion

On July 6, 2023, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) secured \$13.29 million in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 2.0) grant funds for 11 OCTA planning, outreach, transit, active transportation, and transit signal priority projects. The grants are administered by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on behalf of the State of California and are focused on supporting SCAG's sustainability goals. On July 24, 2023, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) authorized the acceptance of the REAP 2.0 grant funds. Two of the 11 REAP 2.0 projects were submitted in partnership with the City of Santa Ana (City): the McFadden Avenue Transit Signal Priority Pilot and the

First Street Multimodal Boulevard Design. SCAG issued a Stop Work Order on January 25, 2024, for all awarded REAP 2.0 projects at the request of the State and in light of projected state budget challenges. After nearly six months, this Stop Work Order was lifted on July 18, 2024; however, the REAP 2.0 funds expenditure deadline of December 2025 was not changed and cannot be extended. As a result, the City could only commit to delivering one of the two projects within that timeframe and has proceeded with the McFadden Avenue Transit Signal Priority Pilot. On September 9, 2024, the Board approved the execution of a cooperative agreement between OCTA and the City to deliver the McFadden Avenue Transit Signal Priority Pilot.

On October 2, 2024, SCAG informed REAP 2.0 grantees that an administrative extension was granted with a new expenditure deadline of June 30, 2026 (extended from December 2025). The additional six months allow the City to deliver the majority of the scope of work for both REAP 2.0 projects. The original scope for the First Street corridor included full design plans, which will now be included as an optional scope item based on the findings of the study and the overall project schedule. The First Street Multimodal Boulevard Study (Study) will focus on outreach, data collection, lessons learned, and multimodal corridor evaluation of implementing a bicycle boulevard along First Street within the City's right-of-way in conjunction with planned improvements that reduce transit travel times. The City will lead this Study in cooperation with OCTA.

A cooperative agreement with the City is necessary to define the specific roles and responsibilities of each agency inclusive of specific provisions from SCAG to ensure compliance with REAP 2.0 grant funding guidelines. As the recipient of the REAP 2.0 funds, OCTA will be responsible for reporting on progress and implementation of the Study as well as seeking reimbursement from SCAG. In order to expedite the Study, staff has included a provision in the agreement to allow the City to accrue expenditures immediately upon Board approval of the cooperative agreement and while final agreement is negotiated and executed.

Fiscal Impact

The First Street Multimodal Boulevard Study will be fully funded with Regional Early Action Planning grant funds allocated to Account No. 0017-7831-SPT02-0R1.

Summary

Board approval is requested to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-4-2053, in an amount up to \$4,300,000, with the City of Santa Ana for the First Street Multimodal Boulevard Study.

Attachment

None.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alicia Yang".

Alicia Yang
Project Manager III
(714) 560-5362

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rose Casey".

Rose Casey
Executive Director, Planning
(714) 560-5729