



March 1, 2021

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with Southern California Regional Rail Authority for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for construction support services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3290 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, in the amount of \$542,850, to provide construction support services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5.

Discussion

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is implementing the State Route 55 (SR-55) Improvement Project between Interstate 405 (I-405) and Interstate 5 (I-5) (Project). The Project is part of Project F in the Measure M2 freeway program and is being advanced through the updated Next 10 Delivery Plan approved by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) in November 2019. The four-mile long Project will add general purpose and high-occupancy vehicle lanes in each direction between I-405 and I-5, and auxiliary lanes between interchanges. The SR-55 also spans over the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo rail corridor at the South Tustin Overhead bridge, just north of Edinger Avenue, in the City of Santa Ana. The lane additions for the Project will require widening of the bridge structure and coordination with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA).

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On January 11, 2021, the Board authorized Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2726 between OCTA and Caltrans for Caltrans to be the implementing agency for construction of the Project. Under the cooperative agreement, Caltrans and OCTA will also share in the construction management (CM) support services for the Project. Bid documents for the Project will be prepared for the construction contract and are expected to be advertised by late 2021.

As the implementing agency for construction, Caltrans will enter into a construction and maintenance (C&M) agreement with SCRRA to define the specific roles and responsibilities of each agency during and post construction for the South Tustin Overhead bridge widening. SCRRA will provide construction support services, including coordination with the contractor and CM personnel, permit issuance, reviews of work plans and bridge-related submittals, track inspection, safety training for construction workers and CM personnel, safety flagging due to active train operations, and construction oversight. SCRRA's services will be reimbursed by Caltrans as described in the C&M agreement.

SCRRA is a five-county joint powers authority that includes OCTA and is an important partner for the delivery of the Project. SCRRA works with other agencies to implement agency projects that are within or adjacent to the SCRRA owned or maintained right-of-way. Because SCRRA does not receive any funding through its budget process to support these projects, SCRRA must enter into an agreement for funds to cover the expenses of its staff, consultants, and contractors which are required to support the projects. The C&M agreement between SCRRA and Caltrans does not allow for an advancement of funds to SCRRA. As a result, OCTA and SCRRA are proposing to enter into a cooperative agreement to provide for the advancement of funds to SCRRA, and define the specific roles and funding responsibilities of each agency for the Project construction phase. As the primary funding agency for the Project, OCTA will assist SCRRA by providing an advance deposit amount of \$542,850, which was estimated by SCRRA, and will be used by SCRRA for construction support services. SCRRA agrees to return the \$542,850 to OCTA within 60 days of completion of SCRRA's construction support services, and after SCRRA obtains reimbursement from Caltrans through the C&M agreement.

Fiscal Impact

The Project will be included in OCTA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Budget and subsequent FY budgets, Capital Programs Division, Account 0017-9084-FF101-NA4, and will be funded with local funds.

Summary

Staff requests the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3290 with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, in the amount of \$542,850, to provide construction support services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5.

Attachment

None.

Prepared by:



Ross Lew, P.E.
Program Manager
(714) 560-5775

Approved by:



James G. Beil, P.E.
Executive Director, Capital Programs
(714) 560-5646



Pia Veessen
Director, Contracts Administration and
Materials Management
(714) 560-5619