



**October 14, 2024**

**To:** Members of the Board of Directors

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** Approval to Release Request for Proposals for Public Outreach Services for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55

### **Overview**

Staff is requesting Board of Directors' approval to release a request for proposals for public outreach consultant services for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55. These services are needed for community outreach efforts during the pre-construction and construction phases of the project. A draft request for proposals has been developed to initiate a competitive procurement process to retain a public outreach consultant.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Approve the proposed evaluation criteria and weightings for Request for Proposals 4-2488 to select a firm to provide public outreach consultant services for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55.
- B. Approve the release of Request for Proposals 4-2488 for public outreach consultant services for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55.

### **Discussion**

Interstate 5 (I-5) improvements between Interstate 405 (I-405) and State Route 55 (SR-55) (Project) are part of Project B in the Measure M2 freeway program, also known as Measure M2. The Project was approved through construction in the Next 10 Delivery Plan adopted by the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) in November 2019.

**Approval to Release Request for Proposals for Public Outreach Services for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55** **Page 2**

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I-5 is a major north-south corridor connecting Orange County with Los Angeles and San Diego counties. The Project area includes the cities of Irvine and Tustin and extends approximately nine miles. The \$430.9 million Project is funded through a combination of local, state, and federal funds.

The Project will be constructed in two segments:

- Segment 1 extends from I-405 to Yale Avenue
- Segment 2 extends from Yale Avenue to SR-55

Segment 2 will be first with construction currently scheduled to begin in late 2025. Segment 1 will follow with construction currently scheduled to begin in early 2026. Both segments are anticipated to be completed by late 2029.

The Project corridor consists of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses adjacent to the freeway. It connects to the State Route 133 and the State Route 261 toll road facilities and crosses Orange County Flood Control channels and a rail line. Annual average daily traffic through the Project corridor is approximately 275,600 vehicles, and the corridor currently experiences congestion and traffic delays. The Project is being constructed to address current and future traffic demand.

The Project includes improvements to I-5 in both directions that will affect interchanges, connectors, ramps, walls, drainage systems, and utilities. Mainline improvements include a new regular lane in each direction from I-405 to SR-55, restriping the limited-access high-occupancy vehicle lane to continuous access in both directions, and adding merge lanes in the southbound direction where needed. Six bridges will be improved, and ramps will be modified at several interchanges to bring them up to current design standards and make them safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. The Project will also construct several sound walls and retaining walls.

Extensive outreach efforts are needed to communicate major activities to residents, business owners, large employers, motorists, first responders, active transportation stakeholders, and other key constituents such as local agencies, and the trucking and tourism industries. Major activities include bridge and wall demolition and reconstruction, pile driving, ramp realignments, and utility work, which will require long- and short-term freeway, ramp, and local street closures.

Given the Project scope and complexity and the I-5 corridor's relevance to the traveling public and major stakeholders, Board approval is requested to release

a request for proposals (RFP) for consultant services to provide public outreach during the pre-construction and construction phases. These consultant services will support OCTA in the development and delivery of construction notifications and information that helps the public understand the value and benefits of the Project, as well as construction impacts.

The consultant will implement a comprehensive public outreach program that will engage with all stakeholders, including diverse and underrepresented communities, using a variety of methods and tools such as:

- One-on-one meetings with city representatives, key stakeholders, community-based organizations, and members of the business, ethnic, and faith communities
- City council and speakers bureau presentations
- Email newsletters and text notifications
- In-person and virtual neighborhood meetings
- An interactive map of closures and detours
- A Project website and social media presence
- Flyers canvassed to properties along the Project corridor

In addition, the consultant will assist with coordinating pre- and post-construction surveys and facilitate implementation of temporary construction easements.

***Procurement Approach***

OCTA’s Board-approved procurement policies and procedures require that the Board approve all RFPs over \$1,000,000, as well as approve the evaluation criteria and weightings. Staff is submitting for Board approval the draft RFP and evaluation criteria and weightings, which will be used to evaluate proposals received in response to the RFP.

The proposed evaluation criteria and weightings are as follows:

- |   |                                   |            |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|
| • | Qualifications of the Firm        | 20 percent |
| • | Staffing and Project Organization | 25 percent |
| • | Work Plan                         | 30 percent |
| • | Cost and Price                    | 25 percent |

Several factors were considered in developing the evaluation criteria weightings. Qualifications of the firm is weighted at 20 percent as the consulting firm must have public outreach experience on complex transportation projects during

pre-construction and construction phases. Staffing and project organization is weighted at 25 percent as the proposing firm must demonstrate an experienced, well-rounded team consisting of senior and junior level staff having adequate availability, as well as relevant experience performing outreach services on large construction projects. Work plan is weighted at 30 percent as the plan must consider the unique needs of a corridor composed of residential, commercial, and industrial businesses that also serves motorists commuting from Orange County to and from Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego counties. Additionally, the proposed work plan must demonstrate an understanding of the Project scope and challenges, as well as the level of effort required. Cost and price is weighted at 25 percent to ensure that OCTA receives value for the services provided.

The contract for this procurement will be for a six-year initial term with an option term of up to 24 months. The total cost for the initial term is anticipated to be approximately \$1,200,000.

This RFP will be released upon Board approval of these recommendations.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The Project was approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, People and Community Engagement Division, account nos. 0017-7519-FB102-16H and 0017-7519-FB103-TKH.

#### **Summary**

Board of Directors' approval is requested to release RFP 4-2488 for public outreach consultant services for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55, as well as approval of the proposed evaluation criteria and weightings.

**Approval to Release Request for Proposals for Public Outreach Services for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55**

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**Page 5**

***Attachment***

- A. Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) 4-2488, Public Outreach for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to State Route 55

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