



**October 3, 2022**

**To:** Regional Planning and Highways Committee  
**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
**Subject:** Amendments to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways

### **Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority administers the Master Plan of Arterial Highways, including the review and approval of amendments requested by local agencies. The City of Anaheim has requested an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways that is recommended for approval. An update on the conditionally approved Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendments is also provided.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Conditionally approve the following amendments to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways for the facilities listed below within the City of Anaheim:
1. Remove Douglass Road, a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial, between Cerritos Avenue and Katella Avenue from the Master Plan of Arterial Highways network.
  2. Remove Cerritos Avenue, a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial, between Sunkist Street and Douglass Road from the Master Plan of Arterial Highways network.
  3. Add River Road as a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial from Katella Avenue to Ball Road to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways network.

The proposed amendment will become final, contingent upon the Orange County Transportation Authority receiving documentation that the City of Anaheim has amended its general plan and has complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

If the City of Anaheim does not update its general plan within three years to reflect the Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment, the contingent approval of this requested amendment will expire but can be returned to the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors for reconsideration and action.

If the original proposed Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment is modified as a result of the California Environmental Quality Act and/or general plan amendment process, the modified Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment shall be returned to the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors for consideration and action.

- B. Direct the Executive Director of Planning, or his designee, to file a Notice of Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act in support of the Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment.
- C. Receive and file a status report on the active Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendments.

### ***Background***

The City of Anaheim (City) is proposing roadway changes near the Honda Center and the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) to improve traffic and pedestrian circulation and serve new development. The new development includes a mix of entertainment, office, retail, restaurant, and residential uses within a half mile of ARTIC. Roadway modifications are proposed to enhance circulation, which requires an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) network. The study area and project site map is provided in Attachment A.

The City has submitted a letter requesting the following changes to the MPAH:

- Remove Douglass Road between Cerritos Avenue and Katella Avenue,
- Remove Cerritos Avenue between Sunkist Street and Douglass Road, and
- Add a new north-south roadway named River Road, as a primary arterial, between Katella Avenue and Ball Road.

The proposed MPAH amendment has been reviewed by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) staff. Details on the requested amendment and an update on active MPAH amendments are provided below.

***Discussion***

Staff reviewed the traffic analysis provided by the City and concluded that the requested MPAH amendments are appropriate from a long-range planning perspective. Additionally, future traffic volumes appear to be accommodated with the proposed changes and are forecasted to remain at generally acceptable levels of service (LOS). As such, staff has determined that the City has satisfied MPAH amendment requirements and recommends approval of the MPAH amendment request.

**Deletion – Douglass Road and Cerritos Avenue**

Removal of Douglass Road between Katella Avenue and Cerritos Avenue would create a “stub” for the eastern end of Cerritos Avenue, thus eliminating its connection to the MPAH system. Therefore, staff is recommending the approval of the City’s request to remove Cerritos Avenue between Sunkist Street and Douglass Road to be consistent with the MPAH guidelines. Removal of the two roadways from the MPAH does not significantly impact the surrounding MPAH network.

**Addition – River Road (New Roadway)**

The new roadway, River Road, will connect with Phoenix Club Drive and extend the primary arterial MPAH classification to Ball Road. The existing street name, Phoenix Club Drive, will be changed to River Road, including both the existing and new segments. This planned roadway will include four-travel lanes divided by a two-way left-turn lane. Based on the traffic impact analysis report, future average daily traffic on River Road is anticipated to be approximately 26,100 daily trips. This is below the 30,000 average daily trip threshold identified in the MPAH guidelines for designation as primary arterials. As a result, the proposed classification provides sufficient capacity to accommodate the forecasted traffic levels and meets LOS standards.

The amendments request submitted by the City are provided in Attachment B and a map of the proposed changes to the MPAH is provided in Attachment C. The City of Orange reviewed the traffic study and provided a letter of support for the requested MPAH amendments (Attachment D).

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

Amendments to the MPAH are exempt from the CEQA review. As such, if the Board approves the recommendations, OCTA will file a Notice of Exemption from CEQA in support of the proposed amendment to the MPAH.

**MPAH Amendment Status Update**

There are currently 15 active amendments proposed for the MPAH. These amendments are detailed in Attachment E. Many of the remaining amendments are awaiting local action to amend their respective general plans. Others are either under review, are in the cooperative study process, are pending resolution of issues with other agencies, or are awaiting refinement of development plans.

**Summary**

The City has requested a amendments to the MPAH. Based upon the information provided by the City, the requirements of the MPAH have been satisfied, and staff recommends Board approval of the amendments. requested. A summary of active MPAH amendments is also provided for the Board review.

**Attachments**

- A. Project Study Area and Project Site
- B. Letter from Rudi Emami, Director of Public Works, City of Anaheim, to Kurt Brotcke, Orange County Transportation Authority, Dated July 29, 2022, RE: City of Anaheim Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendment Request Revised
- C. Anaheim MPAH Amendments
- D. Letter from Christopher S. Cash, Director of Public Works, City of Orange, to Kurt Brotcke, Orange County Transportation Authority, Dated July 28, 2022, RE: City of Anaheim Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendment – City of Orange Letter of Support
- E. Status Report on Pending Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendments

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