



October 2, 2023

To: Regional Transportation Planning Committee
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Interstate 405 Improvement Project Update

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority is currently underway with the implementation of the Interstate 405 Improvement Project. This report provides a project update.

Recommendation

Receive and file as an information item.

Background

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, and Westminster, is implementing the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project between State Route 73 (SR-73) and Interstate 605 (I-605) (Project). The Project will add one general purpose lane in each direction from Euclid Street to I-605, consistent with Measure M2 Project K, and will add an additional lane in each direction that will combine with the existing high-occupancy vehicle lane to provide dual express lanes in each direction of I-405 from SR-73 to I-605, otherwise known as the 405 Express Lanes.

On November 14, 2016, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) awarded the design-build (DB) contract to OC 405 Partners (OC405), a joint venture. OCTA executed the DB contract with OC405 and issued Notice to Proceed (NTP) No. 1 on January 31, 2017. NTP No. 1 was a limited NTP for mobilization, design, and administrative activities. On July 27, 2017, OCTA issued NTP No. 2 to OC405. NTP No. 2 was a full NTP for all activities, including construction. The overall project cost is approximately \$2.16 billion.

Discussion

Current Status

The Project is over 95 percent complete from a DB perspective. A number of activities are ongoing as construction work continues to advance towards completion. The following provides a more detailed status of project activities.

DB Contract

The status of OC405's construction activities that are complete or ongoing include:

- All bridges are complete and open to traffic. This includes the 18 bridge replacements and the new and improved bridges.
- All ramps are complete and open to traffic.
- All walls and paving are complete.
- All improvements to Orange County Flood Control District facilities are complete.
- The remaining physical work primarily consists of landscaping, additional bridge lighting, cultural resources restoration, and punch list activities.
- Remaining work also includes quality documentation and project close-out activities.

From a DB standpoint, the primary risks remaining include a force majeure event or OCTA-directed changes in the scope of work.

Tolling Elements

Kapsch TrafficCom USA, Inc., (Kapsch) serves as the provider of the electronic toll and traffic management (ETTM) system on the 405 Express Lanes and is responsible for staffing the Traffic Operations Center (TOC). WSP USA Services, Inc., (WSP) is responsible for the back-office system and customer service center operations.

The status of 405 Express Lanes activities that are complete or ongoing include:

- Toll policy approved by the Board and initial toll rate schedule developed.
- Freeway Service Patrol contracts executed.
- Tenant improvements completed at the customer service center in Costa Mesa.
- Tenant improvements completed at the TOC and furniture/equipment are being installed.
- Transponder contract executed and awaiting shipment of transponders.

- Kapsch continues installation of ETTM equipment and is currently performing on-site installation testing.
- System integration testing for the WSP systems has commenced.
- WSP has begun staffing the customer service center.
- An enforcement services agreement with the California Highway Patrol is being finalized and will be submitted to the Board for approval.
- A maintenance agreement with Caltrans is being finalized and will be submitted to the Board for approval.
- Development of the logo and branding as well as several awareness elements, including multi-lingual brochures, social media advertising, and website development are ongoing.

From a tolling standpoint, the primary risks include coordination between OC405 and Kapsch, and the timely installation and testing of the tolling equipment by Kapsch. Similarly, WSP's successful development and testing of the tolling back-office system, in addition to the interaction with the Kapsch data, is also key to remaining on schedule for the opening of the 405 Express Lanes in late 2023.

Next Steps

OCTA staff, OC405, Kapsch, and WSP continue to work closely together to accomplish the opening of all lanes, including the 405 Express Lanes, later this year. Activities will include completing the 405 Express Lanes striping and channelizers, final testing of the tolling systems, as well as the hiring and training of employees by Kapsch and WSP for the TOC and customer service center, respectively.

Next steps also include the following Project milestones:

- Late 2023 – Anticipated opening of all lanes. This includes the new general purpose lanes, the 405 Express Lanes, and all ramp and local street lanes.
- February 2024 – DB project completion. Between late 2023 and February 2024, miscellaneous construction activities will be ongoing, including landscaping, installation of remaining bridge lighting, cultural resources restoration, and punch list items.
- June 2024 – DB final acceptance. Between February and June 2024, final punch list items will be addressed, and OCTA will be working with stakeholders to accept the project improvements, including Caltrans, the cities, and the County.
- June 2027 – DB contract acceptance. Between June 2024 and June 2027, the design-builder is required to maintain the landscaping as part of a three-year plant establishment period.

Summary

Construction continues to advance in order to achieve the opening of all lanes in the next two months. Construction, final utility relocations, implementation of tolling elements, public outreach, and preliminary close-out activities are in process to complete the construction phase of the Project.

Attachment

None.

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