



**May 1, 2017**

**To:** Regional Planning and Highways  
**From:** Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
**Subject:** Amendment 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 County of Orange has requested an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways that is recommended for approval. A status update on active Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendments is also provided for Board of Directors' information.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Approve an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways for the facilities listed below. The proposed amendment will become final, contingent upon the Orange County Transportation Authority receiving documentation that the cities of Irvine, Lake Forest, Orange, and the County of Orange have amended their respective general plans, and have complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

#### County of Orange

- Reclassify Santiago Canyon Road from east of the State Route 241 northbound off-ramp, to Live Oak Canyon Road, from a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial to a collector (two-lane, undivided) arterial,
- Delete the proposed Jeffrey Road extension between State Route 241 and Santiago Canyon Road, and
- Delete the proposed Black Star Canyon Road between Santiago Canyon Road and the Orange/Riverside County line.

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

- 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 amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways.
- C. Receive and file a status report on the active Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendments.

### ***Background***

Proposed amendments to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) are submitted to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) on a quarterly basis. Details on the proposed MPAH amendment request for this quarter and status update on active MPAH amendments are provided below.

### ***Discussion***

In 2014, the Irvine Company gifted 2,500 acres of land in the east Orange area to the County of Orange (County). Due to the related reductions in land use intensities, the County has requested the three following modifications to the MPAH (Attachments A and B).

- Reclassify Santiago Canyon Road from east of the State Route 241 (SR-241) northbound off ramp to Live Oak Canyon Road, from a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial to a collector (two-lane, undivided) arterial.
- Remove the proposed Jeffrey Road extension from SR-241 to Santiago Canyon Road as a conceptual primary (four-lane, divided) arterial.
- Remove the proposed Black Star Canyon roadway from Santiago Canyon Road to the Orange/Riverside County line as a conceptual secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial.

In July 2016, the County initiated the MPAH cooperative study process with immediately adjacent agencies, including the cities of Irvine, Lake Forest, Orange, Tustin, the California Department of Transportation, the Transportation Corridor Agencies, and OCTA. In coordination with these agencies, a traffic study was conducted.

The traffic study concluded that there would not be significant MPAH level of service impacts resulting from the County's proposed amendment request, nor would the County's proposed changes to the MPAH adversely impact the long-term regional integrity of the MPAH. As a result, all immediately adjacent stakeholder agencies have indicated their concurrence (Attachments D, E, F, G, and H).

It should be noted that the cities of Irvine and Lake Forest made their concurrence contingent upon agreement with the County to implement intersection mitigation measures recommended in Section 7.3 of the traffic study. This analysis was also included in the traffic study and is intended to address the City of Irvine's North Irvine Transportation Mitigation Program. As such, these mitigation requests will be addressed at the local level. Therefore, the requested MPAH amendment, if approved, would not hold bearing on local agency agreements to implement these mitigation measures.

Based upon the traffic analysis findings and the conditional concurrence of immediately adjacent stakeholder agencies, OCTA's MPAH Cooperative Study Process requirements have been satisfied. Therefore, reclassification/deletion of these facilities is recommended, subject to OCTA receiving documentation that the cities of Irvine, Lake Forest, Orange, and the County have amended their respective general plans and have completed appropriate environmental documentation.

#### California Environmental Quality Act

Amendments to the MPAH are not "projects" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), or alternatively, are exempt from CEQA review. As such, if the Board approves these recommendations, OCTA will file a Notice of Exemption from CEQA in support of the proposed amendment to the MPAH.

#### Status Update

There are currently 26 active amendments proposed for the MPAH. These amendment requests are either under review or are in the cooperative study process; pending resolution of issues with other agencies; or are awaiting refinement of development plans. These active MPAH amendment requests are summarized in Attachment I.

#### ***Summary***

The County has requested an amendment to the MPAH. Based upon the information provided by the County and the concurrence of immediately adjacent jurisdictions, the requirements of the MPAH Cooperative Study Process have been satisfied, and Board approval is requested. A summary of active MPAH amendments is also provided for the Board's review.

**Attachments**

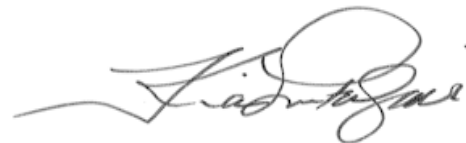
- A. Letter from Nardy Khan, P.E., P.M.P., Deputy Director, Infrastructure Programs, Orange County Public Works, to Mr. Joe Alcock, Section Manager, Corridor Studies and Long Range Planning, Dated March 9, 2017, MPAH Amendment Request for Santiago Canyon Road, Jeffrey Road Extension, and Black Star Canyon Road
- B. County of Orange – MPAH Amendment Request
- C. Letter from Manuel Gomez, Director of Public Works, City of Irvine, to Jamie Reyes, OC Public Works, Dated April 6, 2017, Consent to Orange County Public Works Led MPAH Amendment Request for Santiago Canyon Road, Jeffrey Road Extension and Black Star Canyon Road
- D. Letter from Thomas E. Wheeler, P.E., Director of Public Works/ City Engineer, City of Lake Forest, to Jamie Reyes, OC Public Works, Dated April 10, 2017, Consent to Orange County Public Works Led MPAH Amendment Request for Santiago Canyon Road, Jeffrey Road Extension and Black Star Canyon Road
- E. Consent Form signed by Joe DeFrancesco, Public Works Director, City of Orange, Dated April 10, 2017
- F. Letter from Krys Saldivar, Public Works Manager-Traffic/Transportation, City of Tustin, to Jamie Reyes, PE, OC Public Works, Dated April 5, 2017, MPAH Reclassification Study – OC Public Works
- G. Letter from Maureen El Harake, Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning, Department of Transportation, District 12, to Jamie Reyes, Orange County Public Works, Dated March 30, 2017
- H. Consent Form signed by David W. Lowe, Chief Engineer, Transportation Corridor Agencies, Dated April 11, 2017
- I. Status Report on Active Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendments

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