




June 5, 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 City of Placentia 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 facility listed below. The proposed amendment will become final, contingent upon the Orange County Transportation Authority receiving documentation that the City of Placentia has amended its general plan, and has complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

City of Placentia

- Reclassify Crowther Avenue between Placentia Avenue and the eastern city limits from a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial to a divided collector (two-lane, undivided) arterial.

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. Exceptions to this schedule may be made when a compelling need is demonstrated by the local agency for approval prior to the next scheduled quarterly update. A specific amendment request from the City of Placentia (City) and the MPAH status update are presented below.

Discussion

The City has submitted a letter (Attachment A) requesting to amend the MPAH to reclassify Crowther Avenue between State Route 57 (SR-57) and the eastern City limits from a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial to a divided collector (two-lane, divided) (Attachment B). This segment of Crowther Avenue is currently built with two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane. Current traffic volumes are approximately 5,000 average daily traffic (ADT), and future traffic volumes are estimated to be 16,000 ADT.

The proposed MPAH reclassification would complement the City's recently adopted land use zone amendment for the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Packing House District. Crowther Avenue bisects the TOD Packing House District in the east/west direction. The TOD Packing House District incorporates new development standards aimed at creating mixed-use development with walkable and sustainable infrastructure for the area surrounding the new Placentia Metrolink Station. The proposed MPAH amendment would allow for Crowther Avenue to complement future TOD development by enhancing pedestrian mobility while also managing vehicle speeds.

The proposed amendment also supports the goal of increasing travel choice by improving access to transit and expanding the active transportation network. By allowing for wider sidewalks, the proposed reclassification would improve first/last mile accessibility for the new Placentia Metrolink Station, in addition to any future bus service. The City will continue to coordinate with OCTA staff to ensure appropriate accommodations are made for future bus stops serving the train station. Further, proposed Class II bike lanes along Crowther Avenue would provide a new low-stress option for bicyclists crossing SR-57 that would otherwise use Chapman Avenue or Orangethorpe Avenue.

The City has provided traffic analysis that demonstrates existing and future traffic volumes can be accommodated with the proposed reclassification, and intersections are expected to remain at acceptable levels of service. Furthermore, the cities of Anaheim and Fullerton support the proposed reclassification (Attachments C and D). As such, staff believes that the City has satisfied MPAH amendment requirements and recommends approval of the City's MPAH amendment request.

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. The majority of these amendment requests have been approved by the Board and are awaiting confirmation through the local agencies' general plans. The remainder of these active amendments are either pending resolution of issues with other agencies or further refinement of development plans. These active MPAH amendment requests are summarized in Attachment E.

The status report includes an update regarding the mitigation monitoring for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) C-6-083. This MOU was established in 2006 to address the designation of the proposed Garfield-Gisler Bridge as a right-of-way reserve facility. Per the MOU, the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, and Huntington Beach are responsible for implementing strategic improvements. To date, reasonable progress has been made on implementation of 19 of the 25 mitigation measures. The remaining mitigations have either not been triggered and/or are not funded at this time. All improvements are required to be completed by 2020, at which time OCTA will revisit the designation of the Garfield-Gisler Bridge.

Summary

The City has requested an amendment to the MPAH. Based upon the information provided by the City and the concurrence of immediately adjacent jurisdictions, the requirements of the MPAH Amendment 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 Luis Estevez, Director of Public Works, City of Placentia, to Carolyn Mamaradlo, Senior Transportation Analyst, Orange County Transportation Authority, Dated April 18, 2017, Amendment to Master Plan of Arterial Highways – Crowther Avenue
- B. City of Placentia – MPAH Reclassification Request
- C. Letter from Rudy Emami, P.E., Public Works Director, City of Anaheim, to Luis Estevez, Director of Public Works, City of Placentia, Dated April 20, 2017, Amendment to Master Plan of Arterial Highways – Crowther Avenue within the City of Placentia
- D. Letter from Don Hoppe, Director of Public Works, City of Fullerton, to Luis Estevez, Director of Public Works, City of Placentia, Dated April 18, 2017, Letter of Support for Amendment to Master Plan of Arterial Highways – Crowther Avenue
- E. Status Report on Active Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendments

Prepared by:



Carolyn Mamaradlo
Senior Transportation Analyst
(714) 560-5748

Approved by:



Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning
(714) 560-5741