



February 5, 2018

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee
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 Westminster has requested an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways that is recommended for approval. A status update on the active Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendments is also provided.

Recommendations

- A. Approve an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways to reclassify the following facilities from secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterials to divided collector (two-lane, divided) arterials:
- Garden Grove Boulevard between Interstate 405 northbound off-ramp/State Route 22 eastbound off-ramp/State Route 22 eastbound on-ramp and Edwards Street;
 - Edwards Street between Garden Grove Boulevard and Trask Avenue;
 - Trask Avenue between Edwards Street and Hoover Street;
 - Hoover Street between Garden Grove Boulevard and Bolsa Avenue.

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

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 amendment process, 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 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 this proposed MPAH amendment request and a status update on active MPAH amendments are provided below.

Discussion

The City of Westminster (City) has submitted a letter requesting an amendment to the MPAH (Attachment A) and has coordinated with OCTA staff to evaluate the request. Based upon the data provided by the City, future traffic volumes are expected to be accommodated with the proposed changes and are forecasted to remain at acceptable levels of service in the future. Therefore, the requested MPAH amendment is appropriate from a long-range planning perspective and is consistent with the MPAH.

Four facilities have been requested for reclassification in the City: (1) Garden Grove Boulevard between Interstate 405 northbound off-ramp/State Route 22 (SR-22) eastbound (EB) off-ramp/SR-22 EB on-ramp and Edwards Street, (2) Edwards Street between Garden Grove Boulevard and Trask Avenue, (3) Trask Avenue between Edwards Street and Hoover Street, and (4) Hoover Street between Garden Grove Boulevard and Bolsa Avenue. The City has requested reclassification of these secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterials to divided collector (two-lane, divided) arterials (Attachment B). These reclassifications would support the Garden Grove Boulevard Cycle Track Project and allow the accommodation of additional biking and walking facilities within the existing roadway right-of-way. Implementation of this project would require reconfiguration of existing vehicular travel lanes to accommodate new, bikeway facilities. The installation of the proposed bikeway facilities would support completion of the regional bikeways network and help expand travel choices.

In May 2016, the City and the Southern California Associated Governments organized a community event to give a live demonstration of what a complete street could look like. The event, “Experience Hoover,” took place in the Sigler Park neighborhood and featured temporary bike lanes, parklets, and a roundabout along Hoover Street, Main Street, and Olive Street, leading into Sigler Park. The event was considered a success and demonstrated the need and desire of the participants for the improvements.

Additionally, the City recently updated their general plan incorporating substantial complete streets considerations. Under this new plan, a layered roadway network is identified, indicating which modes are prioritized on the various roadway typologies. Garden Grove Boulevard is designated as a “connector street” and has a level of service (LOS) D standard, while Trask Avenue and Hoover Street are designated as “bicycle corridors”, which have a LOS E standard.

Current and future (year 2035) traffic volumes along the proposed segments are estimated to be 17,000 average daily traffic. Based upon detailed traffic analysis provided by the City, these volumes are expected to be accommodated within the upper limits of proposed roadway reconfigurations. In addition, the City will continue to coordinate with OCTA staff to ensure appropriate accommodations are made for bus service provided along Garden Grove Boulevard. Adjacent jurisdictions include the California Department of Transportation and the City of Garden Grove, who have indicated their support in Attachment C and Attachment D. As such, the proposed reclassifications are expected to be feasible from a technical and local support perspective.

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 the recommendations, OCTA will file a Notice of Exemption from CEQA in support of the proposed amendment to the MPAH.

Status Update

There are currently 31 active amendments proposed for the MPAH (Attachment E). Many of these amendment requests 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.

Additionally, the MPAH map was recently administratively updated to reflect the latest roadway network for Rancho Mission Viejo. The MPAH had previously reflected conceptual alignments for proposed roadways in the development area located along easterly Cow Camp Road. Several roadways have since been constructed and their actual existing alignments are now shown in the 2017 MPAH map.

Summary

The City has requested an amendment to the MPAH. Based upon City-provided traffic analyses, the requirements of the MPAH have been satisfied, and Board approval of staff's recommendations is requested. A summary of active MPAH amendments is also provided for the Board review.

Attachments

- A. Letter from the City of Westminster, from Marwan Youssef, Director of Public Works, to Joseph Alcock, Section Manager, RE: Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendments of Garden Grove Boulevard, Edwards Street, Trask Avenue, and Hoover Street, dated November 28, 2017
- B. City of Westminster, MPAH Reclassification Request
- C. Letter from the Department of Transportation District 12, from Yatman Kwan, AICP, Caltrans Branch Chief, to Adolfo Ozaeta, City of Westminster Public Works Department, dated November 21, 2017
- D. Letter from the City of Garden Grove, from Dai C. Vu, T.E., Traffic Engineer, to Adolfo Ozaeta, City of Westminster Traffic Engineer, RE: Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) Amendments of Garden Grove Boulevard, Edwards Street, Trask Avenue, and Hoover Street, dated October 24, 2017
- E. Status Report on Active Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendments

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