




April 2, 2018

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee
From: Darrell E. 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 the active Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendments is also provided.

Recommendations

- A. Approve an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways for the following:
- Reclassify Esperanza Road, between Imperial Highway and the Fairmont Boulevard Connector, from a major (six-lane, divided) to a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial;
 - Reclassify Fairmont Boulevard Connector, between Esperanza Road and Fairmont Boulevard, from a major (six-lane, divided) to a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial;
 - Reclassify Los Patrones Parkway, between Chiquita Canyon Road to Cow Camp Road, from a primary (four-lane, divided) to secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial; and
 - Add Los Patrones Parkway, south of Oso Parkway to Chiquita Canyon Road, as a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial.

The proposed amendment will become final, contingent upon the Orange County Transportation Authority receiving documentation that the County of Orange and City of Yorba Linda have amended their respective general plans and have complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

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 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 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 County of Orange (County) has submitted letters requesting changes to the MPAH (Attachment A and Attachment B) for the following:

- Reclassify Esperanza Road, between Imperial Highway and the Fairmont Boulevard Connector, from a major (six-lane, divided) to a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial;
- Reclassify Fairmont Boulevard Connector, between Esperanza Road and Fairmont Boulevard, from a major (six-lane, divided) to a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial;
- Reclassify Los Patrones Parkway, between Chiquita Canyon Road to Cow Camp Road, from a primary (four-lane, divided) to secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial; and
- Add Los Patrones Parkway, south of Oso Parkway to Chiquita Canyon Road, as a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial.

The requested amendment is illustrated in Attachment C.

Esperanza Road and Fairmont Boulevard Connector

Esperanza Road and the Fairmont Boulevard Connector are within the jurisdictions of the County and City of Yorba Linda (Yorba Linda). However, the County is serving as the lead agency on this MPAH amendment request. Yorba Linda has indicated their support for the County to serve as lead in the attached letter (Attachment D).

The proposed reclassifications would support the County's efforts to complete the Orange County Loop: 66 miles of regional connections for people to bike, walk, and connect to some of California's most scenic beaches and inland reaches. Approximately 75 percent is already in place, with nearly 46 miles of existing off-street trails along the San Gabriel River, Coyote Creek, Santa Ana River, and the Coastal/Beach Trail. This proposed MPAH amendment would allow the County to reconfigure Esperanza Road and the Fairmont Boulevard Connector to accommodate a protected bikeway within the existing right-of-way. This project would complete a gap connection between the El Cajon Trail and the Santa Ana River Trail.

Current and future (year 2040) traffic volumes along the proposed segments are estimated between 15,000 and 20,000 average daily traffic (ADT). These traffic volumes are within the acceptable level of service for primary (four-lane, divided) arterials, which is typically between 20,000 and 30,000 ADT. Also, with regard to adjacent facilities owned and operated by the City of Anaheim (Anaheim) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), there are no anticipated impacts due to the relatively low traffic volumes. Both Anaheim and Caltrans have provided letters of support for the County's MPAH amendment request (Attachments E and F). As such, the proposed reclassifications are expected to be feasible from a technical and local support perspective.

Los Patrones Parkway

The proposed new roadway, Los Patrones Parkway, is located within Unincorporated Area of Orange County, with the northern terminus adjacent to the City of Rancho Santa Margarita and State Route 241. Los Patrones Parkway has been planned as a secondary arterial to support the Rancho Mission Viejo development. This arterial designation is consistent with various approved environmental documents and legal agreements held by the County.

The roadway is currently under construction and scheduled to open for public use by summer 2018. Los Patrones Parkway is expected to accommodate future volumes estimated to be approximately 30,000 ADT. Roadway design includes enhancements such as a minimum eight-foot median, limited access points, higher design speed, and enhanced intersection designs. These features allow for an operating capacity that is considerably higher than the typical 20,000 ADT for a conventional secondary arterial highway on the MPAH. As such, the proposed addition of Los Patrones Parkway is expected to be feasible.

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 33 active amendments proposed for the MPAH (Attachment G). 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.

Summary

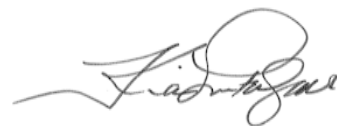
The County has requested an amendment to the MPAH. Based upon the information provided by the County, the requirements of the MPAH have been satisfied, and Board approval of staff's recommendations is requested. A summary of active MPAH amendments is also provided for the Board review.

Attachments

- A. Letter from Nardy Khan, P.E., P.M.P., Deputy Director, Infrastructure Programs, OC Public Works, to Joe Alcock, Section Manager, Corridor Studies and Long Range Planning, Orange County Transportation Authority, Dated February 27, 2018, Subject: MPAH Amendment Request for Esperanza Road and Fairmont Boulevard Connector
- B. Letter from Nardy Khan, P.E., P.M.P., Deputy Director, Infrastructure Programs, OC Public Works, to Carolyn Mamaradlo, Senior Transportation Analyst, Orange County Transportation Authority, Dated March 13, 2018, Subject: MPAH Amendment Request for Los Patrones Parkway
- C. County of Orange, MPAH Amendment Request
- D. Letter from Brad Fowler, Interim Director of Public Works/City Engineer, City of Yorba Linda, to Nardy Khan, P.E., P.M.P., Deputy Director, Infrastructure Programs, OC Public Works, Dated March 7, 2018, Subject: OC Public Works Led MPAH Amendment Request for Esperanza Road and Fairmont Boulevard
- E. Letter from Rudy Emami, P.E., Public Works Director, City of Anaheim, to Jamie N. Reyes, PE, OC Public Works, Dated March 1, 2018, Subject: Support for the Proposed Amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways for Esperanza Road and Fairmont Connector and Consent to Orange County Public Works to Act as the Lead for the MPAH Amendment Effort
- F. Letter from Marlon Regisford, Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning, District 12, California Department of Transportation, to Ms. Jamie Reyes, Orange County Public Works, Dated February 28, 2018
- G. Status Report on Active Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendments

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