



April 2, 2018

To: Regional Planning and Highways 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, 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 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 (OC 405). OCTA executed the DB contract with OC 405 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 26, 2017, the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan agreement was executed between OCTA and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). On July 27, 2017, OCTA issued NTP No. 2 to OC 405. NTP No. 2 was a full NTP for all activities, including construction.

Discussion

A number of activities are ongoing as the final design continues and construction has been initiated. The final design is approximately 60 percent complete overall. The final baseline schedule, a detailed schedule of design and construction activities, is nearing completion.

Construction

OCTA held a groundbreaking ceremony on January 26, 2018, with more than 600 attendees, to commemorate the start of construction. The event was made possible by the generosity of more than 30 project partners. OC 405 began construction on March 6, 2018. Initial construction activities will continue over the next few months, including restriping portions of the freeway and setting up concrete barriers on the outside of the freeway to protect work areas for activities such as tree removals and grading. More significant construction activities, such as paving operations and bridge demolition activities, are anticipated to begin in the fall.

Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition

Construction of the Project will impact 288 properties, including 179 residential properties, 71 commercial/industrial properties, 37 public properties, and one railroad property. There are 287 properties identified as partial acquisitions and one property is identified as a full acquisition at the owner's request. The total number of impacted properties is less than the 305 previously reported as design changes have eliminated impacts to certain properties. The real property requirements for the partial acquisitions are comprised of a combination of fee acquisitions, permanent easements, temporary construction easements (TCE), and access control rights needed to construct the proposed highway and express lane improvements for the Project. The full-fee acquisition, partial-fee acquisitions, permanent easements, and TCEs are required for roadway and bridge construction, soundwalls and retaining walls, drainage systems, and for the installation of above-ground and underground facilities, including electrical, telecommunication, water, sewer, gas, and storm drain systems.

The ROW acquisition program is currently on schedule. Of the 288 total parcels needed, the following summarizes the status of the ROW acquisition:

- 275 notices of decision to appraise sent
- 220 offers presented
- 167 agreements reached (76 percent of offers presented)
- 30 resolutions of necessity approved

Utility Relocations

There are currently 105 utilities that require relocation as part of the Project. OCTA is coordinating with the 22 impacted utility companies to identify issues and work to resolve them. There are several utility relocation challenges that staff continues to focus on as utilities are a shared risk between OCTA and OC 405.

Tolling Procurements

On February 26, 2018, the Board selected Kapsch TrafficCom USA, Inc., (Kapsch) to provide toll lanes system integration services for design, installation, operation, and maintenance of the electronic toll and traffic management system on both the 405 and 91 Express Lanes. Kapsch will be working closely with the design-builder to deliver fully functional express lanes upon opening in 2023.

Staff recently initiated the development of a request for proposals for the back office support and customer service center contract for both the 405 and 91 Express Lanes, and plans to seek Board approval for its release in fall 2018.

TIFIA Loan

On July 26, 2017, OCTA executed a TIFIA loan agreement with the USDOT for up to \$628.93 million. Pursuant to the terms identified in the loan agreement, OCTA staff recently submitted the first TIFIA reimbursement requisition for \$165 million to the USDOT Build America Bureau and Federal Highway Administration. OCTA anticipates receiving the first reimbursement by April 16, 2018. As of the end of February, OCTA has expended over \$300 million on the Project.

Public Outreach

The weekend of February 16 to February 18, 2018, staff hosted a booth at two Orange County Tet Festivals, one at Mile Square Park, as well as one at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Multi-lingual staff provided Project information and encouraged festival attendees to sign up to receive email, text, and phone alerts during construction. Information was made available in both English and Vietnamese, and more than 400 attendees signed up to receive more information at the two events.

Project open houses will be scheduled in the coming months in multiple cities to share general Project information, the anticipated bridge construction schedule, and other Project details. Door hangers with open house information will be distributed to residents and businesses near the Project area. In

addition, staff will utilize targeted online and social media advertisements, Chamber of Commerce and corridor city websites, as well as other communication mediums to invite the public to attend. Prior to bridge work commencing later this year, staff will host neighborhood meetings in residential areas immediately adjacent to bridge reconstruction. These meetings are a grassroots community outreach approach and encourage residents to ask questions about the Project over coffee and donuts.

OCTA continually strives to keep pace with technology and to be innovative in its public outreach tactics. Staff developed an interactive map for the Project website which includes closure and detour information to help guide the traveling public during construction, as well as provide general facts on bridges and intersections along the 16-mile stretch. The interactive map is connected to Waze, the popular, free navigation app, with real-time traffic information. Staff is working with Waze to incorporate the Project's closures and detours into the system proactively. This is the first OCTA freeway construction project to utilize this tool, and a demonstration will be available at the upcoming Project open houses.

A Project mobile app is also in development. The free app will provide up-to-date Project information such as schedule, closures and detours, milestones, and overall benefits. It will also allow the user to view the interactive map, interesting photos and videos from the field, contact the outreach team, as well as experience the configurations and aesthetics of the bridges in every angle via a virtual reality component. This app is another innovative first for an OCTA freeway construction project.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to work closely with the design-builder as design and construction continue. This involves completing portions of the final design, obtaining permits, utility relocation coordination, and construction activities. Additionally, the ROW acquisition program will continue as planned.

Summary

Final design continues and construction has been initiated. Currently, final design, right-of-way acquisition, public outreach, and other activities are in process to continue the construction phase of the Interstate 405 Improvement Project between State Route 73 and Interstate 605.

Attachment

None.

Prepared by:

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