



**September 6, 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 (OC405), a joint venture. OCTA executed the DB contract with OC405 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 OC405. NTP No. 2 was a full NTP for all activities, including construction.

***Discussion***

A number of activities are ongoing as the final design, right-of-way (ROW) acquisition, and construction activities continue to advance. Additionally, the final baseline schedule, a detailed schedule of design and construction activities, was recently approved. The following provides a more detailed status of project activities:

**Tolling Contracts**

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 is currently under contract and working closely with the design-builder to deliver fully functional express lanes upon opening in 2023.

Staff has initiated the development of a request for proposals for the back office support and customer service center contract for the 405 Express Lanes, and plans to seek Board approval for its release in 2019.

**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 submits periodic reimbursement requisitions to the USDOT Build America Bureau and Federal Highway Administration. OCTA received the first TIFIA loan reimbursement in April of this year. The next reimbursement is anticipated for the end of 2018.

**Design**

The final design is approximately 70 percent complete overall and is anticipated to be fully complete in mid-2019.

**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 identified as a full acquisition at the owner's request. 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:

- 248 offers presented
- 188 agreements reached (65 percent of total properties needed)
- 43 resolutions of necessity approved

#### Utility Relocations

There are currently 102 utilities that require relocation as part of the Project. OCTA is coordinating with the 21 impacted utility companies to identify and resolve issues. There are several utility relocation challenges that staff continues to focus on as utilities are a shared risk between OCTA and OC405.

#### Construction

OC405 began construction on March 6, 2018. Initial construction activities included 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. These initial construction activities are generally complete in the southbound direction and over 50 percent complete in the northbound direction. Clearing and grubbing, including tree and ground cover removal, has begun in earnest and rough grading activities have been initiated.

More significant roadway construction activities, such as installation of drainage systems and paving operations, are anticipated to begin in the fall.

Bridge construction began in August as the McFadden Avenue bridge was closed to traffic on both sides of I-405 and the bridge was demolished. The bridge will be closed for approximately 12 months as the new bridge is built at this location.

The Slater Avenue bridge over I-405 is anticipated to be closed to traffic and demolished in late September.

Settlement fills are anticipated to be placed adjacent to the abutments of the Goldenwest Street and Magnolia Street bridges over I-405 in September, and partial demolition of these two bridges is anticipated for November. Both of these bridges will be two-stage bridges, which means the bridge will be open to traffic during construction.

#### Public Outreach

OCTA hosted six open houses throughout the Project corridor in May and June 2018, focused on sharing general Project information and the preliminary schedule for bridge construction, and encouraging the public to sign up for construction updates and connect with the Project via social media. More than 55,000 door hangers about the meetings were distributed to residents and businesses near the Project area. In addition, staff utilized targeted social media advertisements, Chamber of Commerce and corridor city websites, and other communication media to invite the public to attend. More than 400 community members participated, and a video of the open house presentation and materials were posted on the Project website for those who were unable to attend.

OCTA began targeted outreach in early July in anticipation of the demolition and construction of the McFadden Avenue and Slater Avenue bridges. A detailed outreach plan was developed for each bridge, consisting of one-on-one briefings with nearby businesses and other key stakeholders, coordination meetings with emergency responders and city representatives, and weekend neighborhood meetings with area residents prior to bridges being closed.

Flyers were distributed to residents and business owners directly adjacent to the bridges to notify them of the neighborhood meetings, and again prior to major milestone activities such as demolition and pile driving. More than 150 community members have participated in the meetings to date. Staff also coordinated with OCTA's Bus Operations and Central Communications to ensure detour routes were in place in advance of the bridge closures and rider alerts were prepared.

Additional outreach efforts include attendance at events such as the City of Westminster's National Night Out, the City of Fountain Valley's Summerfest and Business Expo, and briefings with cities of Westminster and Fountain Valley High Schools, cities of Westminster and Fountain Valley School Districts, Goldenwest College, and the Goldenwest Neighborhood Association.

As construction has ramped up and following the open houses, staff has fielded nearly 400 calls and emails from the public, responding to inquiries about construction activities, detours, and Project plans and designs. As a result, OCTA has produced a robust set of online resources to keep the public informed, including a dedicated Project construction page that includes new features such as a printable PDF of closures and highlights of each bridge's construction.

In the coming weeks, the Project mobile app will launch. This free app will feature Project closure and detour information, photos and videos from the field, access to the interactive map, and ways to contact the outreach team. In the fall, staff will conduct a Stakeholder Working Group meeting, bringing together Project area community leaders for a comprehensive update, and to solicit feedback on construction progress and outreach efforts.

#### **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:**



Jeff Mills, P.E.  
Program Manager  
(714) 560-5925

#### **Approved by:**



James G. Beil, P.E.  
Executive Director, Capital Programs  
(714) 560-5646