



October 7, 2019

To: Regional Planning and Highways

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Grant Award and Baseline Agreement for Solutions for Congested Corridors Program

Overview

The California Transportation Commission awarded the Orange County Transportation Authority \$19.917 million in competitive Solutions for Congested Corridor Program funding. The grant award will support the purchase of five zero-emission battery-electric transit buses, three signal synchronization projects, and five active transportation bicycle and pedestrian projects to reduce congestion in central Orange County.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to accept the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program grant award and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the California Transportation Commission and California Department of Transportation.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to negotiate and execute any other cooperative agreements with the Orange County cities and the County of Orange for implementation of the above grant-funded projects.
- C. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to amend the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and process all necessary amendments to facilitate the recommendation above.

Background

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted guidelines for the Solutions for Congested Corridor Program (SCCP) on December 6, 2017, making \$1 billion available to fund multi-modal projects that make specific performance improvements in highly-traveled corridors by providing more

transportation choices while preserving the character of the local community and creating opportunities for neighborhood enhancement. All projects nominated must be identified in a currently adopted regional transportation plan and an existing comprehensive corridor plan.

In February 2018, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted the Orange County Central Corridor Improvement Project (OC-CCIP), requesting \$101.98 million in funding. The OC-CCIP is a multi-modal package of projects designed to relieve congestion along the Central Orange County Corridor (COCC), focusing on the State Route 55 (SR-55) improvement from Interstate 405 (I-405) to Interstate 5 (I-5). The projects include:

- SR-55 high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes between I-405 and I-5 for \$75 million,
- Traffic signal synchronization on MacArthur Boulevard/Talbert Avenue (SR-55 to east of Beach Boulevard); Warner Avenue (Pacific Coast Highway to Pullman Street); and Edinger Avenue (Bolsa Chica to the Auto Mall) for \$12 million,
- Five zero-emission transit buses for Bravo! Rapid Bus Service on Main Street from the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center to South Coast Metro for \$4.330 million,
- Eleven active transportation projects in the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, Irvine, Santa Ana, Tustin, and the County of Orange for \$10.590 million.

Discussion

The OC-CCIP was designed to provide significant multi-modal improvements to relieve congestion along the COCC, focused on the SR-55 COCC improvements from I-405 to I-5, which included transit, bikeway, pedestrian, and arterial improvements. The 2016 Quarterly Caltrans Mobility Performance Report ranked the SR-55 through Orange County as the 21st most congested freeway in the state out of 172 freeways, with over 815,000 hours of congestion delay in the first half of 2016. As a result, arterials and the surrounding communities are also heavily congested during peak travel periods. With no improvements to the corridor, OCTA projects a 50 percent increase in total vehicle hours of delay by 2040.

On May 16, 2018, the CTC adopted the SCCP program of projects. A total of \$82.06 million of OCTA's request was not recommended for funding, which includes the SR-55 improvement HOV lanes and six active transportation projects. OCTA received a partial award of \$19.917 million for five zero-emission

battery-electric buses, traffic signal synchronization, and five active transportation projects. The awarded projects are consistent with the OC Transit Vision, OC Active, and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P). Details of the project award are provided in Attachment A. The project locations are shown in Attachment B.

To supplement the SCCP awards, \$2.523 million in Low Carbon Transit Operations Program and \$2.000 million in SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) State of Good Repair (SGR) funds were approved by the Board of Directors (Board) for the purchase of up to eight zero-emission battery-electric transit buses. In addition, OCTA is seeking additional grant funding to allow the purchase of an additional three zero-emission battery-electric buses. This will allow OCTA to compare the operation of the battery-electric buses with the existing ten zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell battery-electric buses already purchased with prior year SB 1 SGR and other funds.

OCTA will deliver the bus purchase and traffic signal synchronization projects. The cities of Santa Ana and Tustin will deliver the five active transportation projects.

OCTA Board Resolution No. 2019-078 is presented for consideration (Attachment C), authorizing the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to accept the grant for \$19.917 million and enter into grant agreements between the CTC, Caltrans, and local agencies. A baseline agreement is required as part of the project delivery and will require approval from CTC, Caltrans, and the cities of Santa Ana and Tustin. A summary outlining the terms of the baseline agreement is provided in Attachment D.

Next Steps

OCTA staff will coordinate with the cities of Santa Ana and Tustin to execute the agreement. OCTA staff will submit the agreement for CTC approval. CTC is expected to approve the agreement at their January 2020 meeting.

Summary

CTC awarded OCTA \$19.917 million for the Bravo! Main Street – Bus Rapid Transit Route, three traffic signal synchronization projects, and five active transportation projects.

An authorizing resolution to accept the grant award and enter into grant-related agreements with CTC, Caltrans, and local agencies is presented for adoption as required by the grant program.

Attachments

- A. Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, Orange County Central Corridor Improvement Project - Awarded Projects
- B. SCCP-Awarded Projects
- C. Resolution No. 2019-078 of the Orange County Transportation Authority, Solutions for Congested Corridors Program Authorization
- D. Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, Term Sheet, Project Baseline Agreement

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