



June 1, 2020

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the Interstate 5 Improvement Project Between Avenida Pico and San Diego County Line

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Transportation to provide independent quality assurance and approvals for preparation of the project report and environmental document for the Interstate 5 improvement project between Avenida Pico and the San Diego County Line.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2334 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation, at no cost, for preparation of the project report and environmental document for the Interstate 5 improvement project between Avenida Pico and the San Diego County Line.

Discussion

The Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) are concluding efforts on the South County Traffic Relief Effort (SCTRE). Based on technical work, public feedback, and policy direction, three alternatives are proposed to move forward into project development. On March 12, 2020, the TCA Board of Directors approved recommendations to proceed with project development of a non-tolled extension of Los Patrones Parkway, widening of State Route 74 between Calle Entradero and Reata Road, and the extension of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane improvements between Avenida Pico and the San Diego County Line. On April 13, 2020, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) also approved recommendations to proceed with these

projects. Caltrans and TCA will provide a final project report (PR) for SCTRE that will formalize these recommendations.

The Interstate 5 (I-5) improvement project between Avenida Pico and San Diego County Line (Project) would complete the HOV lane network in Orange County and complements the HOV improvements that were recently completed as part of Project C in the Measure M2 freeway program. The Project proposes to construct one HOV lane in each direction on I-5 between Avenida Pico and the San Diego County Line, reestablish existing auxiliary lanes, and modify interchange ramps.

OCTA proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to define the roles and responsibilities of both agencies. The proposed cooperative agreement with Caltrans specifies the roles and responsibilities of the parties as well as the process for preparation of the PR and environmental document (ED). Caltrans will be the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act, and, at no cost, provide quality control/quality assurance on the ED, and independent quality assurance on the PR produced by the OCTA consultant. It is anticipated that the PR/ED phase work will begin in early 2021 after consultant services have been procured. The Project anticipates being environmentally cleared by 2024 so it is shelf-ready for potential advancement as additional funds become available. A separate item will seek OCTA Board approval to release a request for proposals to procure a consultant for the PR/ED services.

Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2334 with the California Department of Transportation, at no cost, for preparation of the project report and environmental document for the Interstate 5 improvement project between Avenida Pico and the San Diego County Line.

Attachment

None.

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