

State Route 91 Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present

Tim Shaw, Immediate Past Chairman

Via Teleconference

Bob Magee, Chairman

Gene Hernandez, Vice Chairman

Brian Berkson, RCTC

Berwin Hanna, RCTC

Kevin Jeffries, RCTC

Mark A. Murphy, OCTA

Harry S. Sidhu, OCTA

Donald P. Wagner, OCTA

Michael Beauchamp, Caltrans

District 8, Ex-Officio

Ryan Chamberlain, Caltrans

District 12, Ex-Officio

Ray Marquez, SBCTA, Ex-Officio

Committee Members Absent

Karen Spiegel, RCTC

Staff Present

Darrell E. Johnson, OCTA, Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer L. Bergener, OCTA, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Kirk Avila, OCTA, General Manager, 91 Express Lanes

Martha M. Ochoa, OCTA, Assistant Clerk of the Board

Gina Ramirez, OCTA, Deputy Clerk of the Board

OCTA and RCTC Staff

Via Teleconference

Anne Mayer, RCTC, Executive Director

Michael Blomquist, RCTC, Toll Program Director

Haviva Shane, RCTC, Legal Counsel

James M. Donich, OCTA, General Counsel

Call to Order

The June 5, 2020 regular meeting of the State Route 91 (SR-91) Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) was called to order by Committee Chairman Magee at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

The Assistant Clerk of the Board conducted an attendance Roll Call and announced that there was a quorum of the SR-91 Advisory Committee.

Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Chairman Magee led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Special Calendar

There were no Special Calendar matters.

Consent Calendar (Items 2 and 3)

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Member Jeffries, seconded by Member Hanna, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 9-0, to approve the minutes of the State Route 91 Advisory Committee meeting of March 6, 2020.

3. 91 Express Lanes Status Reports

A motion was made by Member Jeffries, seconded by Member Hanna, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 9-0, to receive and file the 91 Express Lanes Status Reports for the months of January 2020 through March 2020.

Regular Calendar

4. Draft 2020 State Route 91 Implementation Plan

Alison Army, Principal Transportation Analyst, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), provided a PowerPoint presentation update as follows:

- SR-91 Implementation Plan;
- Culmination of Efforts;
- Guiding Principles;
- Orange County Projects;
- Riverside County Projects;
- Bi-County Projects;
- Project Sequencing; and
- Recommendation/Next Steps.

No action was taken on this receive and file information item.

Discussion Items

5. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impacts to the 91 Express Lanes

Kirk Avila, General Manager, OCTA, 91 Express Lanes, and Michael Blomquist, Toll Program Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) provided a PowerPoint co-presentation as follows:

- Impacts to Daily Operations;
- Administrative Office – Anaheim;
- Customer Service Center – Corona;
- Customer Fees;
- Violations Processing;
- Toll Rates – RCTC;
- Toll Rates – OCTA;
- Impacts to Express Lanes Traffic and Toll Revenue;
- Riverside County Weekly Traffic Volumes;
- Riverside County Weekly Potential Revenue;
- Orange County Weekly Traffic Volumes;
- Orange County Weekly Potential Revenues;
- Planning for the Rebound;
- Resuming Customer Service Center Operations;
- Upcoming Activities; and
- Questions.

A discussion ensued as follows:

- Member Shaw stated that the Monthly Jobs Report showed 2.5 million jobs were added in the month of May, when the expectations were job loss. He added if the labor market comes back from the COVID-19 lock-down, there could be possible impacts to the operations on the 91 Express Lanes as people are commuting between the two counties for work. He questioned if it would be wise to possibly consider adjusting the toll policy more frequently than every three months.

5. (Continued)

- Mr. Avila stated that OCTA's policy does have the component where toll rates can be adjusted every three months. Currently there is capacity with traffic volumes down about 40 percent. He added if the employment which is strongly correlated to traffic volumes continues to increase and bounces back significantly, there is cushion in the capacity on the 91 Express Lanes to absorb that increase. If it reaches a point where there is more traffic volumes than the toll policy provides, staff would return to the Board of Directors (Board) and implement additional temporary measures in regards to OCTA's toll policy.
- Mr. Blomquist stated Riverside County does have in their toll policy the ability to change toll rates more frequently than every twelve weeks during atypical and unusual circumstance. COVID-19 qualified as a circumstance for implementing the flexibility to adjust rates. He added they have additional capacity, however, staff will continue to look at data trends and possibly make rate changes more frequently than every twelve weeks.

No action was taken on this information item.

6. General Manager's Report - Orange County Transportation Authority

Kirk Avila, General Manager, OCTA, 91 Express Lanes, reported on the following:

Back-office System:

- At the last SR-91 Advisory Committee meeting, an item was presented on the selection of Cofiroute as the joint operator and the developer of a new back-office system for OCTA and RCTC.
- Work continues in getting the new system ready for the transition date.
- Both OCTA and RCTC continue to review and provide comments to the design documents and attend business rules and design/development workshops.
- Testing will begin early 2021 with the expected go-live date in July 2021.

6. (Continued)

Toll Entrance Gantries Infrastructure Project:

- The OCTA Board recently approved the cooperative agreement with the California Department of Transportation to advertise, award, and provide oversight of the construction of the toll entrance gantries infrastructure project on the Orange County segment.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2020 and completed in early 2021.
- Once completed, the lane system provider will install the transponder readers and cameras on the gantries.

Ratings update:

- Fitch Ratings affirmed OCTA's 91 Express Lanes debt at "A+" on Monday, March 30th.
- The ratings outlook continues to be "Stable".
- The ratings affirmation is a significant achievement during these unprecedented times and based on the strong operating history and current high level of reserves.

7. Toll Program Director's Report - Riverside County Transportation Commission

Michael Blomquist, Toll Program Director, RCTC, reported on the following:

Ratings update:

- Substantial drops in traffic and revenue in the lanes in both counties related to COVID-19 impacts has been of very great interest to those that RCTC borrowed money from and rate our outstanding debt, such as our toll revenue bonds and our federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
- RCTC's ratings have been reaffirmed by both Standard & Poor's & Fitch for RCTC's 91 Express Lanes.

7. (Continued)

Development Milestone Updates:

- **SR-91 Corridor Operations Project (Project)**
 - New westbound lane from Green River Road on-ramp to Route 241.
 - Construction management contract was approved by the RCTC Board last month.
 - The Project is now fully funded with federal funds that were added to the project in conjunction with OCTA funds, as well as RCTC 91 Express Lanes surplus funds to create a fully funded project.
 - The Project is moving forward, the construction contract is now out to bid, and bids are due July 2, 2020.
 - Expecting to award the construction contract in August.
- **15/91 Express Lanes Connector**
 - 91 Express Lanes to 15 Express Lanes connection at the 15/91 interchange to the north.
 - In April, staff ensured the project remained fully funded with surplus toll revenues from the RCTC 91 Express Lanes.
 - Notice to proceed was provided in April to the design-build contractor responsible for both final design and construction of the project.
 - This Project is on schedule and opening by 2023.
- **SR-241/91 Express Lanes Connector**
 - Project moving forward.
 - Last month, the agencies started work on the Concept of Operations, a planning document where consensus is reached on how the future facility will be operated, roles and responsibilities, and some of the technical details.
 - Agencies agreements are now moving forward with the OCTA taking the lead on drafting the first draft of the master agreement.

8. Committee Members' Reports

There were no Committee Members' Reports.

9. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.



MINUTES

State Route 91 Advisory Committee Meeting

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the SR-91 Advisory Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 2, 2020**, at the:

City of Corona - City Hall
400 South Vicentia Avenue
Council Chambers - First Floor
Corona, California

ATTEST

Bob Magee
Committee Chairman

Martha M. Ochoa
OCTA Assistant Clerk of the Board