



# **MINUTES**

## ***Regional Planning and Highways Committee Meeting***

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### **Committee Members Present**

Mark A. Murphy, Chairman  
Barbara Delgleize, Vice Chair  
Lisa A. Bartlett  
Doug Chaffee  
Joe Muller

### **Staff Present**

Jennifer L. Bergener, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Sara Meisenheimer, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Gina Ramirez, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
James Donich, General Counsel

### **Committee Members Absent**

None

### **Via Teleconference**

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
James Donich, General Counsel

## **Call to Order**

The January 4, 2021 regular meeting of the Regional Planning and Highways (RP&H) Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman Murphy at 10:31 a.m.

## **Roll Call**

The Deputy Clerk of the Board conducted an attendance Roll Call and announced that there was quorum of the RP&H Committee.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Committee Chairman Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **1. Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

## **Special Calendar**

There were no Special Calendar matters.

## **Consent Calendar (Items 2 through 8)**

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Director Chaffee, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to approve the minutes of the Regional Planning and Highways Committee meeting of December 7, 2020.



**3. Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5**

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Director Chaffee, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2726 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and California Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$255,320,000, comprised of a construction capital share of \$213,460,000, and a construction management services share of \$41,860,000, for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5.

**4. Supplemental Contract Change Order for the Interstate 405 Improvement Project from State Route 73 to Interstate 605 - Archaeological Treatment Plan**

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Director Chaffee, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute supplemental Contract Change Order No. 57.2 to Agreement No. C-5-3843 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and OC 405 Partners, a joint venture, in the amount of \$2,500,000, to implement and maintain an archaeological treatment plan and continue archaeological monitoring for the Interstate 405 Improvement Project from State Route 73 to Interstate 605.

**5. Measure M2 Environmental Mitigation Program Update**

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), pulled this item and introduced Kia Mortazavi, Executive Director of Planning, who noted that none of the recent fires affected the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Preserves (i.e. conservation properties). However, two of the fires impacted multiple habitat restoration investments sponsored by OCTA. Mr. Mortazavi stated that staff will revise the Staff Report going to the January 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting based on these updates.

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Director Chaffee, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to receive and file as an information item.

**6. Amendments to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways**

Director Bartlett pulled this item to express her excitement and to support the amendment of the Master Plan of Arterial Highways to extend Los Patrones Parkway to Avenida La Pata.

### **6. (Continued)**

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Delgleize, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to:

- A. Conditionally approve the following amendments to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways to reclassify the facilities listed below in the unincorporated area of the County of Orange and/or the City of San Clemente:

#### County of Orange

- Reclassify Chiquita Canyon Drive between north of Fauna Drive and Esencia Drive from a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial to a divided collector (two-lane, divided);
- Reclassify Fauna Drive between Chiquita Canyon Drive and Esencia Drive from a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial to a collector (two-lane, undivided) arterial; and
- Reclassify Esencia Drive between Andaza Street and Fauna Drive from a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial to a collector (two-lane, undivided) arterial.

#### County of Orange and City of San Clemente

- Delete planned Cristianitos Road south of Cow Camp Road and replace with Los Patrones Parkway extension from south of Cow Camp Road to Avenida La Pata as a primary (four-lane, undivided) arterial.

#### City of San Clemente

- Reclassify Camino Vera Cruz between Camino De Los Mares and Carreterra from a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial to a divided collector (two-lane, divided); and
- Reclassify Camino De Los Mares between Camino Del Rio and the City of San Clemente's eastern limit from a secondary (four-lane, undivided) arterial to a divided collector (two-lane, divided).

Each of the proposed amendments will become final, contingent upon the Orange County Transportation Authority receiving documentation confirming that the respective agency or agencies have amended their general plans accordingly and have complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

If a general plan is not updated within three years to reflect the proposed Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment, the contingent amendment will expire, but can be returned to the Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors for reconsideration and action.

**6. (Continued)**

If the proposed Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment is modified as a result of the California Environmental Quality Act and/or general plan amendment processes, the modified Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment shall be returned to the Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors for consideration and action.

- B. Direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act in support of the Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendment.
- C. Receive and file a status report on the active Master Plan of Arterial Highways amendments.

**7. Orange County Transportation Authority State and Federal Grant Programs - Update and Recommendations**

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Director Chaffee, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to:

- A. Approve the requests to delay the City of Costa Mesa Adams Avenue and Pinecreek Drive Intersection Project and the County of Orange OC Loop Carbon Canyon Bikeway Gap Closure (Segment D) Project.
- B. Authorize staff to make all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and execute any required agreements or amendments to facilitate the recommendations above.

**8. State Route 55 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to Interstate 5 Funding Plan Update and SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) Grant Acceptance**

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Director Chaffee, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to:

- A. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-001, to accept the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program Grant Award from the California Transportation Commission for \$115 million, to commit to the required match of 30 percent for the State Route 55 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to Interstate 5, and to negotiate and execute any grant required agreements.

### **8. (Continued)**

- B. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-002, to accept the Local Partnership Program-Competitive Grant Award from the California Transportation Commission for \$25 million, to commit to the required match of 50 percent for the State Route 55 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to Interstate 5, and to negotiate and execute any grant required agreements.
- C. Authorize the use of up to \$36 million in additional federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds, up to \$22 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds, and the reduction of Measure M2 Freeway Program funds of \$29.5 million for the State Route 55 Improvement Project from Interstate 405 to Interstate 5.
- D. Authorize staff to process all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program to facilitate programming of the project.

### **Regular Calendar**

### **9. Interstate 405 Improvement Project Update**

Jeff Mills, Project Manager of the Interstate 405 Improvement Project, provided opening comments and introduced Chris Boucly, Section Manager of Public Outreach, who co-presented the PowerPoint presentation as follows:

- Project Location and Key Features;
- Background;
- Project Update;
- Construction Update:
  - Wall Construction
  - Concrete paving
  - Fairview Road bridge construction
  - Santa Ana River bridge construction
  - Bushard Street bridge complete
  - Magnolia Street bridge construction
  - Heil Avenue pedestrian overcrossing (POC) construction
  - McFadden Avenue bridge complete
  - Bolsa Avenue bridge construction
- Look Ahead for 2021 Bridge Construction;
- Bridge Construction Map;
- Major Risks Remaining;

### **9. (Continued)**

- 2020 Outreach Metrics; and
- Upcoming Outreach.

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

## **Discussion Items**

### **10. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Darrell E. Johnson, CEO, reported on the following:

- Wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to working with everyone, as well as the new Board Members, who will be sworn in at the January 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
- The month of January is Human Trafficking Awareness month and California consistently has the highest human trafficking rates in the nation and unfortunately, it has increased during the pandemic. In response, OCTA has relaunched the Be The One marketing campaign to educate the public about human trafficking and to learn how to spot the signs.

The campaign will include:

- Bus advertising and a full bus wrap
- Information on the website
- Email blast
- Article on the OCTA blog
- Press Release

### **11. Committee Members' Reports**

Committee Vice Chair Delgleize wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to making 2021 a better year.

Committee Chairman Murphy echoed Committee Vice Chair Delgleize's remarks.

Director Bartlett stated that due to the stay at home orders being extended, it will have impacts on bus service and other services that OCTA provides. She wants to make sure that OCTA staff is continuing to monitor and adjust accordingly.

Darrell E. Johnson, CEO, responded that every month the Transit Committee is provided a transit ridership report. From the administrative workforce, employees are continuously encouraged to stay at home from all safety protocols.



**11. (Continued)**

Mr. Johnson, CEO, also commented on the number of positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases for the month of December and how it has tripled since the month of July. OCTA is very focused on mental health and giving employees flexibility, as needed. He also expressed concerns that there are more COVID-19 cases in the project offices and if this continues to increase, there could be potential project impacts and delays.

**12. Closed Session**

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 1, 2021**, at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, Conference Room 07, 550 South Main Street, Orange, California.

ATTEST

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Mark A. Murphy  
Committee Chairman

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Sahara Meisenheimer  
Deputy Clerk of the Board