




May 3, 2021

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with the City of San Juan Capistrano for the Ortega Highway Widening Improvements from Calle Entradero to Reata Road

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of San Juan Capistrano to provide Measure M2 Project O funding for the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the Ortega Highway Widening Improvement Project from Calle Entradero to Reata Road. This agreement will supersede the original letter agreement to the Comprehensive Funding Programs Agreement dated August 1, 2020, for the project.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3410 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the City of San Juan Capistrano, in the amount of \$5,250,000, in Measure M2 Project O funds for the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the Ortega Highway Widening Improvement Project from Calle Entradero to Reata Road.
- B. Approve cancelling Letter Agreement No. 5 to the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Master Agreement No. C-1-2782 with the City of San Juan Capistrano.

Discussion

Through a Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP) competitive call for projects, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) awarded \$5,250,000 to the City of San Juan Capistrano (City) for the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) for the Ortega Highway Widening Improvement Project (Project) on May 11, 2020. OCTA issued Letter Agreement No. 5 to the CTFP Master Agreement No. C-1-2782

with the City with an effective date of August 1, 2020. The OCTA funds must be matched with non-OCTA funds of \$1,750,000 to meet the match requirement consistent with requirements in the Measure M2 (M2) Ordinance.

The PS&E is anticipated to cost approximately \$7,800,000, which will be supported through a combination of sources including \$5,250,000 in M2 funds through OCTA, \$1,750,000 from the County of Orange and Rancho Mission Viejo, and from State Transportation Improvement Program funds, which were previously authorized by the OCTA Board of Directors and the California Transportation Commission for this project. The City's required contribution will be satisfied by the County and Rancho Mission Viejo funding. The City is currently working with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to implement the Project.

Based on the environmental studies and preliminary engineering, the Project will widen Ortega Highway from two to four lanes for a 1.1-mile section between Calle Entradero and Reata Road. The Project's preliminary plans include installing a traffic signal at Via Cordova and Hunt Club Drive, providing a 12-foot-wide striped median, a five- to eight-foot shoulder on each side to accommodate a Class II bicycle lane, and reconstructing the existing sidewalk. The Project also requires seven retaining walls. The PS&E phase is anticipated to take 12 to 18 months to complete. The total Project, including construction, is expected to cost approximately \$76 million, based on preliminary estimates, and could be open to traffic by 2028, contingent on funding availability.

This Project is also important to OCTA as it is one of the cornerstone elements in the three-party agreement between OCTA, Caltrans, and the Transportation Corridor Agencies to improve mobility in south Orange County. The three agencies agreed to focus on south Orange County's mobility improvements including this Project, an extension of the high-occupancy vehicle lanes on Interstate 5 between the San Diego County line and Avenida Pico, and improvements to Los Patrones Parkway in place of any southern extension of the State Route 241 toll facility.

The City and Caltrans are proposing to enter into a financial contribution agreement, which will allow the City to make a contribution to Caltrans for the PS&E work without taking on responsibilities that could create additional risk and liability for the City. In order for the City to proceed under this type of arrangement, OCTA needs to also provide the funding to the City through a different mechanism as the letter agreement was created based on CTFP Guidelines that assume the local jurisdiction is also the implementing agency. The cooperative agreement, as proposed, authorizes OCTA to provide payment to the City based on confirmation of the Caltrans agreement and an invoice from

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for the Ortega Highway Widening Improvements from
Calle Entradero to Raeta Road

Caltrans to the City, as well as confirmation of the match. It will also require regular reports from the City on PS&E progress.

Fiscal Impact

The project is included in OCTA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget and subsequent FY budgets, Planning Division, Account No. 0017-7831-SO001-TH4, and as noted above, will be funded with M2 Project O funds.

Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval to terminate Letter Agreement No. 5 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-2782, and for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3410 with the City of San Juan Capistrano, in the amount of \$5,250,000, to support a financial contribution to the California Department of Transportation to prepare plans, specifications, and estimates for the Ortega Highway Widening Improvements Project from Calle Entradero to Raeta Road.

Attachment

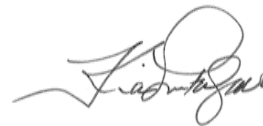
None.

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