



June 7, 2021

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Programming Recommendations for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and Mid-Cycle State Transportation Improvement Program

Overview

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, signed into law on December 27, 2020, appropriated funding for transportation infrastructure and programs to mitigate revenue loss due to the coronavirus pandemic. Based on state guidelines, these funds will flow through the mid-cycle process for the State Transportation Improvement Program. Programming recommendations are presented for the Board of Directors' consideration and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the 2021 mid-cycle State Transportation Improvement Program submittal to program Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 for the following:
- \$800,000 for the State Route 74 Ortega Highway Improvement Project, and
 - \$588,506 for planning, programming, and monitoring.
- B. Authorize staff to make all necessary amendments to the State Transportation Improvement Program and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program, as well as execute any necessary agreements to facilitate the recommendations above.

Background

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA), signed into law on December 27, 2020, appropriated \$10 billion for Highway Infrastructure Programs. The State of California was apportioned \$911.8 million of which approximately \$364.7 million,

or 40 percent, will be distributed to regional agencies. The remaining 60 percent, or \$547.1 million, will be utilized by the State of California through the State Highway Operations Improvement Program and the Interregional Improvement Program. Fifty percent of the regional funds (\$182.4 million) will be distributed through a 2021 mid-cycle State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) through the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) will receive \$11.8 million through the mid-cycle STIP. The remaining 50 percent will be distributed through the CRRSAA program. Recommendations for the use of those funds will be presented to the Board of Directors (Board) in a future item.

The CTC approved the mid-cycle STIP schedule, share distribution, and program guidelines on May 12, 2021, with projects initially considered for adoption in June 2021. OCTA's \$11.8 million in the mid-cycle STIP CRRSAA funding can be used to support new projects, augment existing STIP projects, provide cash flow to advance existing STIP projects, or these funds may be included in the 2022 STIP, which is anticipated to be considered by the Board in fall 2021.

Projects are recommended for the mid-cycle STIP CRRSAA funding based on the CTC mid-cycle STIP Guidelines and OCTA's programming priorities included in the February 11, 2019, Board-approved Capital Programming Policies.

Discussion

For the mid-cycle STIP CRRSAA funding, staff is proposing one STIP project advancement and augmentation of the existing planning, programming, and monitoring (PPM) set of projects. In developing this recommendation, staff reviewed several existing and potential new projects, as well as the potential to program funding for the 2022 STIP.

Staff is recommending, as part of the mid-cycle STIP CRRSAA funding program, the advancement of \$800,000 of the \$8.5 million in programmed future STIP funds to support plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) or final design for the State Route 74 (SR-74) Ortega Highway Improvements, from Calle Entradero to Reata Road Project. The project will widen SR-74/Ortega Highway from two lanes to four lanes by adding one lane in each direction. In addition, the project will enhance safety by providing a traffic signal, a 12-foot striped median, a five-to-eight-foot shoulder to accommodate a Class II bicycle lane and reconstruct the existing sidewalk. The City of San Juan Capistrano has been approved to receive \$5.3 million in Measure M2 Project O funds for the PS&E phase for this project, matched with \$1.8 million in local match funds. The

advancement of the STIP funds will allow supplemental work related to the PS&E to be completed and ready the project for the right-of-way and construction phases. Additional information for this project is provided in Attachment A. Because this portion of the already programmed funding for the project is being advanced, it frees up 2020 STIP funding that will be incorporated into the 2022 STIP cycle.

Staff is also requesting approval to use approximately \$588,506 for PPM activities, which is the five percent STIP set aside that can be used for this purpose. OCTA uses five percent of STIP funds or STIP PPM in each cycle to support the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and to develop plans to address the short- and long-term multimodal transportation needs of Orange County and the region. Activities include preparation and updates to countywide transportation plans and feasibility studies, as well as consultant, management, and staff support to prioritize, allocate, program, and manage transportation funding. Finally, staff is proposing to program the remaining \$10.4 million in mid-cycle STIP funds as part of the 2022 STIP. The CTC guidelines indicate that these funds are guaranteed to OCTA if they are programmed as part of the 2022 STIP and are not at risk to be redistributed to other agencies. Reserving these funds for the 2022 STIP provides OCTA the opportunity to combine these with any new STIP funds for high-priority projects. The proposed mid-cycle STIP CRRSAA funding program is provided in the table below:

OCTA Projects Proposed for 2021 Mid-Cycle STIP	
Project	2021 STIP (\$ millions; rounded)
Consider for 2022 STIP	\$10.4
SR-74 Ortega Highway Improvements (Calle Entradero to Reata Road)	\$0.8
PPM	\$0.6
Total:	\$11. 8

With Board approval, OCTA will confirm the project list with CTC. The CTC is expected to adopt the program on June 23, 2021. Attachment B provides the updated Capital Funding Plan, which includes recommended changes pending Board approval on June 14, 2021.

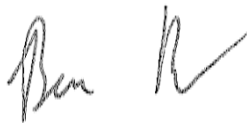
Summary

OCTA is responsible for the development and programming of CRRSAA funding for Orange County. OCTA is proposing to submit two projects for \$1.4 million in CRSAA STIP and will return later this year with a recommendation for the remaining mid-cycle STIP and the CTC CRRSAA funds.

Attachments

- A. Orange County Transportation Authority, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, Project Descriptions and Programming Information
- B. Capital Funding Program Report

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