



July 8, 2021

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for the Irvine Station Improvements Project

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority, in coordination with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, is working in cooperation to implement improvement at the Irvine Station. A cooperative agreement is necessary to define roles, responsibilities, and funding for the preliminary engineering and environmental phase of the Irvine Station Improvements Project.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3425 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for the preliminary engineering and environmental phase of the Irvine Station Improvements Project.

Discussion

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in coordination with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), is working to advance the Irvine Station Improvements Project (Project). Improvements include reconfiguring the Irvine Metrolink Station (Station) including rail infrastructure to support future expansion of passenger service as part of SCRRA's Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) Program. The project definition report (PDR) was completed in June 2019 by SCRRA, and OCTA is advancing the Project into the preliminary engineering and environmental phase.

The Station is served by Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner intercity passenger rail and Metrolink's Orange County and Inland Empire-Orange County commuter rail services. The Project improvements identified in the PDR include the addition of third and fourth tracks between Milepost (MP) 184 and MP 186.7 (approximately

2.7 miles), as well as station reconfiguration to allow for enhanced transfer times and improved accessibility. The existing Station configuration currently includes two main tracks and side platforms. The existing platforms have limited capacity due to their size and accessibility, and do not allow for operating more passenger train service at the Station or more frequent headways.

The Project requires a cooperative agreement between OCTA and SCRRA to define roles, responsibilities, and funding. OCTA will be the lead on the preliminary engineering and environmental phase and will coordinate this work with SCRRA and the City of Irvine. The cost for OCTA's work on the environmental phase of the Project is estimated to be \$5,500,000, and will be funded through Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant funds awarded by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) through SCRRA's SCORE Program.

SCRRA will provide design support, including right of entry permits, safety training, flagging, and other services as needed for the Project. The cost for SCRRA's work on this phase of the Project is estimated to be \$830,000, and will be funded through TIRCP grant funds granted by CalSTA through SCRRA's SCORE Program.

On behalf of OCTA, SCRRA will formally request that OCTA become the implementing agency of TIRCP funds, in the amount of \$6,330,000, with the provision that SCRRA invoice the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) directly for its portion of the services.

The OCTA Board of Directors (Board) approved the release of Request for Proposals 0-2604 on October 26, 2020, to procure a consultant for preliminary engineering and environmental services related to the Project. A separate item will be presented to the Board seeking approval of the consultant selection for the services.

Fiscal Impact

The Project is included in the OCTA Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget, Capital Programs Division, Account No. 0018-7831-TR215-0SV, and will be funded with TIRCP grant funds awarded by CalSTA through SCRRA's SCORE Program and allocated to the Project by the California Transportation Commission.

Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3425 with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for the preliminary engineering and environmental phase of the Irvine Station Improvements Project.

Attachment

A. Project Location Map

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