



September 2, 2021

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Amendment to Agreement for Additional Design Services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5

Overview

On September 11, 2017, the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors authorized an agreement with WKE, Inc., for the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5. An amendment to the existing agreement is required for additional design services.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 7 to Agreement No. C-7-1719 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and WKE, Inc., in the amount of \$563,183, for additional design services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5. This will increase the maximum cumulative obligation of the agreement to a total contract value of \$19,867,709.

Discussion

The State Route 55 (SR-55) Improvement Project between Interstate 405 (I-405) and Interstate 5 (I-5) (Project) is part of Project F in the Measure M2 (M2) freeway program. The updated Next 10 Delivery Plan, adopted by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) in April 2021, identified the Project as one of the M2 freeway projects to be completed by 2026. The Project will add general purpose and high-occupancy vehicle lanes in each direction between I-405 and I-5, and will also add auxiliary lanes between interchanges.

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At the December 2 and December 3, 2020, California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting, the CTC awarded OCTA \$140,000,000 in competitive SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) funds. On January 11, 2021, the Board authorized staff to accept the funds for the project construction phase. The required applications for the competitive funds included the project schedule that shows construction to begin in mid-2022. The plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) are currently being finalized, so the construction bid package can be prepared and then advertised for construction bids in December 2021.

Additional project scope has been identified, which requires further effort to complete the design on schedule. An amendment to the project design contract is recommended for the following additional services:

Roadway Design

- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requested additional freeway safety lights with electrical conduits to be included along southbound SR-55 adjacent to Ritchey Street. Modifications to the concrete barrier design are required to allow the lights to be mounted on the barrier.
- The City of Santa Ana requested architectural imprints to be designed and added on two large retaining walls and concrete median barriers to enhance the aesthetics of these project elements. Adding aesthetics to project elements is common.
- The Design Standard Decision Document is a report that supports exception decisions for Caltrans design standards. After the report was submitted for signatures, Caltrans required additional documentation for other facilities within the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW). Additional review comments were also provided that require resolution and report modifications.

Utility Relocation Design and Coordination

- Significant coordination effort is required with various utility companies, including MCI, Southern California Edison (SCE), Southern California Gas Company (SCGC), and Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) to assist with the relocation design and ensure that relocated utilities do not conflict with Project improvements.
- MCI, SCE, SCGC, and IRWD have utilities that must be relocated prior to the start of freeway construction. The advanced utility relocation work will ensure that these facilities will not interfere with nor delay the freeway construction. Oversight of the four utility companies is

necessary to ensure that relocation work is performed in accordance with the approved utility plans.

- Several utilities, located within local arterials within Caltrans ROW and interchange access control, require documentation to remain within the access control. The utility encroachment exception permit and documentation involve extensive coordination with Caltrans and utility companies.

Design Survey

- Oversight of the advance utility relocations includes field staking of the relocated utility alignments to ensure that relocation work was performed in accordance with the approved utility plans.
- At the request of three property owners that are impacted by the Project, the limits of fee acquisitions and temporary construction easements are staked on the properties for visual locations.
- Revised survey data on legal descriptions and plats were necessary as part of the ROW acquisition effort for ten parcels.

Environmental Services

- The Project includes the widening of four freeway undercrossing bridges, which are common roosting locations for bats. Approximately one year prior to the start of construction, field surveys and identification of any bat habitat, along with mitigation measures, must be documented in a report. Based on the project schedule and environmental procedures, an additional bat survey is required.
- Bird surveys are also required to identify nesting of endangered species. The surveys will be conducted seven days prior to the start of construction.

Procurement Approach

This procurement was handled in accordance with OCTA's Board-approved procedures for architectural and engineering services which conform to both state and federal laws. The original firm-fixed price agreement was issued on February 5, 2018, in the amount of \$16,891,455, for the preparation of project PS&E. The agreement was amended previously as shown in Attachment A. It has become necessary to amend the existing agreement to include additional design services so that the design can be finalized on schedule.

OCTA staff negotiated the required level of effort with WKE, Inc. to provide the additional design services as described above. OCTA found WKE, Inc.'s price proposal, in the amount of \$563,183, to be fair and reasonable relative to the

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negotiated level of effort. Proposed Amendment No. 7 to Agreement No. C-7-1719 will increase the total contract value to \$19,867,709.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the Project is included in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget, Capital Programs Division, Account No. 0017-7519-FF101-0KU, and is funded with M2 funds.

Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 7 to Agreement No. C-7-1719 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and WKE, Inc., to increase funding, in the amount of \$563,183, for additional design services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5.

Attachment

- A. WKE, Inc., Agreement No. C-7-1719 Fact Sheet

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