



CITY OF ORANGE

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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ENGINEERING DIVISION

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January 12, 2021

Mr. Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning
Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street
Orange, CA 92863-1584

Dear Mr. Mortazavi,

The City of Orange is in receipt of your letter of December 7, 2020 concerning the temporary closure of Glassell Street for purposes of outdoor dining. The City concurs with the conditions of that letter relative to the continuation of the closure and the eventual re-opening of the street.

We appreciate the cooperation of OCTA in response to these unprecedented circumstances. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ccash@cityoforange.org or (714)744-5545.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Cash
Public Works Director



AFFILIATED AGENCIES

*Orange County
Transit District*

*Local Transportation
Authority*

*Service Authority for
Freeway Emergencies*

*Consolidated Transportation
Service Agency*

*Congestion Management
Agency*

December 7, 2020

Mr. Christopher S. Cash, PE
Public Works Director
City of Orange
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92866

RE: Master Plan of Arterial Highways – Glassell Street Letter Agreement

Dear Mr. Cash:

This letter agreement responds to the City of Orange (City) letter, dated November 25, 2020, regarding temporary closure of Glassell Street, an Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) facility, between Almond Avenue and Maple Avenue. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) understands local jurisdictions are trying to minimize impacts on local businesses while responding to state coronavirus (COVID-19) directives. To accommodate such an effort by the City, and in light of significant lower traffic volumes, OCTA determined that the temporary closure of Glassell Street between Almond Avenue and Maple Avenue will not result in a finding of non-conformity with the MPAH under the following conditions:

- The City's General Plan shall remain consistent with MPAH classifications.
- As the City Council periodically reviews the temporary Glassell Street closure, City staff shall notify OCTA of any status changes.
- The City shall act to restore pre-COVID-19 traffic operations on Glassell Street at the end of the current public health emergency or when the City Council ceases closure of the facility, whichever occurs first.

Thank you for coordinating with OCTA and please provide a letter of concurrence agreeable to these terms. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Chhan, Transportation Analyst, at schhan@octa.net or (714) 560-5572.

Sincerely,

Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning

KM:sc

c: Stephanie Chhan, OCTA



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November 25, 2020

Mr. Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning
Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street
Orange, CA 92863-1584

Dear Mr. Mortazavi,

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Orange has taken action to declare a local emergency pursuant to Resolution 11283. In order to assist businesses in the Old Towne Orange area who have had occupancy restrictions as a result of coronavirus directives, the City has taken action to close Glassell Street from Almond Avenue to the Orange Plaza and from the Orange Plaza to Maple Avenue. The closure is to allow for businesses to operate outdoors and to compensate for reductions in indoor occupancy, particularly for restaurants.

As Glassell Street is listed on the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) the City understands that the street has local and regional transit impacts. However, given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the specific impacts that the pandemic has caused to the local economy, the City initiated the temporary street closure to try to minimize the impacts. The closure of Glassell Street has been authorized directly by the Orange City Council, which has periodically reviewed the closure throughout the local emergency. The most recent review was at the September 8, 2020 City Council meeting and we anticipate that the Council will review the closure again at the December 8, 2020 meeting. The intent of the closure is meant to support local businesses during the course of the pandemic. As the current closure of Glassell Street is temporary, the closure will not extend beyond either the continuing authorization of the Orange City Council or the end of the current public health emergency, whichever ends first.

The City has extensively publicized the Glassell Street closure, has set up detour routes for vehicular traffic, and has worked with OCTA on re-routing bus traffic throughout the closure all in an effort to minimize impact of this closure to the community. With local traffic levels at reduced levels due to the pandemic, we have not encountered significant impacts.

We appreciate the cooperation of OCTA in response to these unprecedented circumstances. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ccash@cityoforange.org or (714)744-5545.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Cash
Public Works Director