



**November 11, 2021**

**To:** Transit Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** Cooperative Agreement with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for the Coastal Rail Infrastructure Improvements Project

### **Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to define roles, responsibilities, and funding to prepare a Project Definition Report for the Coastal Rail Infrastructure Improvements Project.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Request to amend the Orange County Transportation Authority Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget by \$700,000, to accommodate Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3828 with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to develop long-term solutions along the coastal rail corridor to protect the railroad against future tidal and landslide risks.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3828 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, in the amount of \$700,000, to prepare a Project Definition Report for the Coastal Rail Infrastructure Improvements Project.

### **Discussion**

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) owns over 40 miles of active rail line in Orange County that extends from the City of Fullerton to the San Diego County Line in the City of San Clemente. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is responsible for regional rail operations and maintenance along the corridor. An adjacent slope that failed on private property at Mile Post 206.8, along with tidal surges, have severely degraded the railroad track structure in the City of San Clemente. On September 16, 2021, SCRRA suspended passenger rail service in South Orange County and began

emergency work to stabilize the track with an enhanced revetment. The emergency placement of enhanced revetment was completed the first week of October 2021, and the passenger rail service resumed on October 4, 2021.

SCRRA continues with efforts to monitor the stability of the slope and track infrastructure, and an evaluation of long-term mitigation is necessary to address future landslide and tidal variations risks both at this location and along the entire Orange County coastal rail corridor. OCTA will provide funding to SCRRA to evaluate all potential solutions to address the issues and develop a Project Definition Report (PDR). This PDR will develop site appropriate alternatives that will lead to refinement of the scope, schedule, and cost estimate for this project, enabling OCTA and SCRRA to pursue future funding from various grants.

The project requires a cooperative agreement between OCTA and SCRRA to define roles, responsibilities, and funding. SCRRA will be the lead for the preparation of the PDR and will coordinate this work with OCTA and other stakeholders. The effort for SCRRA's work on this PDR within the coastal rail corridor is estimated to be \$700,000, and will be funded through Measure M – Project R funds.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

An amendment to the OCTA Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget, Capital Programs Division, Account No. 0018-7831-TR222-0CU, in the amount of \$700,000, is being requested to fund Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3828. The cooperative agreement with SCRRA will be funded with local Measure M Project R funds.

#### **Summary**

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3828 with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to prepare a Project Definition Report for the Coastal Rail Infrastructure Improvements Project.

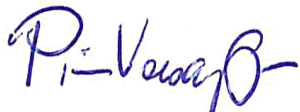
***Attachment***

None.

**Prepared by:**

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