



July 16, 2026

To: Finance and Administration Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Agreement for Electrical Services for the 91 Express Lanes Entrance Gantries

Overview

On May 18, 2026, the Orange County Transportation Authority issued an invitation for bids for the 91 Express Lanes entrance gantry electrical services. Bids were received in accordance with the Orange County Transportation Authority's procurement procedures for public works projects. Board of Directors' approval is requested to execute the agreement.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C250338 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and High-Light Electric, Inc., the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$335,555, for electrical services for the 91 Express Lanes northbound and eastbound entrance gantries.

Discussion

The Orange County segment of the 91 Express Lanes (91 EL) is a four-lane, ten-mile tolled facility built in the median of State Route 91 (SR-91) between the State Route 55 (SR-55)/SR-91 interchange and the Orange/Riverside County Line. The 91 EL facility has three customer entrances: northbound SR-55 and eastbound SR-91 just before the SR-55/SR-91 interchange for the 91 EL eastbound segment, and westbound SR-91 at the county line for the 91 EL westbound segment.

With the implementation of the electronic toll and traffic management (ETTM) system, the 91 EL added entrance gantries at each facility entrance. Before this addition, the only gantries were at the toll collection point, which is in the median of the 91 EL east of the Weir Canyon overcrossing. The new entrance gantries were added to allow staff to collect more accurate data on when vehicles enter

the 91 EL and which access points they enter from. This data would also allow staff to evaluate if vehicles are entering the 91 EL between the entrance and the toll collection points.

All entrance gantries have been constructed and completed by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The ETTM provider installed the necessary equipment and commissioned the westbound entrance gantry but was unable to complete the installation of the other two gantries. During the site review, the ETTM provider identified that the northbound and eastbound entrance gantries did not have sufficient power for the ETTM equipment.

Staff worked with the contractor, Parsons Transportation Group, Inc. (Parsons), to identify power constraints at the two work locations. Parsons developed construction and civil engineering plans to upgrade the electrical systems at the locations required for the necessary ETTM equipment. Parsons and staff worked with Caltrans to obtain approval for the electrical upgrades, as the work area is along SR-55 and SR-91 and within Caltrans' right-of-way.

After receiving plan approval from Caltrans, staff developed the scope of work and began the invitation for bids (IFB) process to select a firm to complete the work. The scope includes furnishing all labor, parts, equipment, closure crews, and personnel to perform all electrical work as detailed in this scope of work and the plans and specifications. The electrical upgrades are required for the ETTM equipment and nearby cameras for the 91 EL.

Procurement Approach

This procurement was handled in accordance with OCTA's Board of Directors-approved procedures for public works projects. These procedures, which conform to both federal and state requirements, require that contracts be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder following a sealed-bidding process.

IFB 250338 was issued electronically on May 18, 2026, on OpenGov, OCTA's online e-procurement system. The project was advertised on May 18 and May 25, 2026, in a newspaper of general circulation. A pre-bid conference was held on May 27, 2026, and was attended by one firm. Two addenda were issued to provide the pre-bid conference registration sheets, address bidders' questions, and address administrative issues related to the IFB. On June 8, 2026, three bids were received and publicly opened.

All bids were reviewed by staff from the OCTA's Contracts Administration and Materials Management, as well as the 91 Express Lanes departments, to ensure compliance with the contract terms and conditions and technical specifications.

The list of bidders and bid amounts is presented below:

<u>Firm and Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
High-Light Electric, Inc. Colton, California	\$335,555
Select Electric, Inc. Anaheim, California	\$385,795
Crosstown Electrical & Data, Inc. Irwindale, California	\$399,987

The OCTA engineer's estimate for the project was \$551,025. The recommended firm's bid is 39 percent lower than the engineer's estimate. The engineer's estimate was developed in a conservative manner when the financial outlook for tariffs and material prices were high and uncertain.

State law requires an award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. As such, the staff recommends awarding the contract to High-Light Electric, Inc., the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$335,555, for electrical services for the 91 EL entrance gantries.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the project is approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget, Express Lanes Division, Account No. 0036-9028-B0001-GXM, and will utilize local funds.

Summary

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C250338 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and High-Light Electric, Inc., the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$335,555 for the electrical services for the 91 Express Lanes entrance gantries.

Attachment

None.

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