



**April 7, 2025**

**To:** Regional Transportation Planning Committee

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

**Subject:** Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 5 and State Route 91

**Overview**

On July 10, 2023, the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Transportation to provide right-of-way support services, right-of-way engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91. Board of Directors' approval is requested to amend the cooperative agreement for additional funding for right-of-way capital and right-of-way support services.

**Recommendation**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-3-2465 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$1,042,000, for additional right-of-way support services, right-of-way engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91. This will increase the maximum cumulative obligation of the cooperative agreement to a total contract value of \$7,087,000.

**Discussion**

The State Route 55 (SR-55) Improvement Project between Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 91 (SR-91) (Project) is part of Project F in the Measure M2 (M2) Freeway Program and is being advanced through the updated Next 10 Delivery Plan approved by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) in November 2024.

**Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 5 and State Route 91** **Page 2**

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The Project will construct lane improvements in each direction between I-5 and State Route 22 and provide operational improvements to the southbound (SB) ramps at Katella Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. An additional lane will be added to the SB SR-55 Katella Avenue off- and on-ramps and the northbound and SB off-ramps at Fourth Street, and the existing SB SR-55 Lincoln Avenue off-ramp will be relocated 1,300 feet to the south, next to the existing SB SR-55 Lincoln Avenue hook on-ramp.

On March 10, 2023, the Board authorized Cooperative Agreement No. C-3-2465 with Caltrans to implement right-of-way (ROW) activities, which include property appraisals and acquisitions, if necessary, and coordination of utility relocations needed for ROW certification for the Project.

Additional ROW support services and ROW acquisition are needed due to additional ROW needs identified for the Project. There is an existing Caltrans overhead sign (OHS) that is within a landscape area of private property, and the OHS needs to be replaced to adhere to Caltrans standards. The replacement of an OHS structure requires additional ROW acquisition. An additional ROW acquisition is also needed for the relocation of the SB Lincoln Avenue off-ramp. The City of Orange (City) requested Caltrans to take over the maintenance of the intersection of Tustin Street and SB Lincoln Avenue on-ramp, where the new Lincoln Avenue off-ramp will be relocated, and the existing City easement on private commercial property is not transferable. Caltrans requested ROW acquisition of the entire intersection for placement and maintenance of their traffic signal. The efforts include the development of new ROW maps and documentation of the ROW needs, and acquisitions. The Project is estimated to impact a total of four properties, both privately and publicly-owned properties, and 16 utility conflicts. The current list of impacted properties has land uses, which include commercial/industrial, residential, and public use (Attachment A). The real property requirements are comprised of a combination of partial fee acquisitions and temporary construction easements. There are no anticipated full fee acquisitions. The property rights are required to implement the project scope as defined in the final environmental document.

The total ROW funding previously approved by the Board for the Project was \$6,045,000 in local M2 funds, comprised of \$5,025,000 for ROW capital and \$1,020,000 for ROW support services. This request is for an additional \$1,042,000 in local M2 funds, comprised of \$312,000 for ROW capital and \$730,000 for ROW support services, for a total contract value of \$7,087,000 (Attachment B).

This Project is Project F in the Next 10 Delivery Plan and the use of M2 funds is consistent with the Board-approved Capital Programming Policies to support Next 10 Delivery Plan projects.

**Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 5 and State Route 91** **Page 3**

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Fiscal Impact

Funding for the Project is proposed in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, Capital Programs Division, account nos. 0017-7514-FF102-0X0 and 0017-9081-FF102-0X0, and will be funded with local M2 funds.

**Summary**

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-3-2465 with the California Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$1,042,000, for additional right-of-way support services, right-of-way engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91. This will increase the maximum obligation of the cooperative agreement to a total value of \$7,087,000, comprised of a capital share of \$5,337,000 and a support share of \$1,750,000.

**Attachments**

- A. State Route 55 Improvement Project (Interstate 5 to State Route 91) Right-of-Way
- B. California Department of Transportation, Cooperative Agreement No. C-3-2465 Fact Sheet

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