



November 13, 2025

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Overview

On April 14, 2020, the Orange County Transportation Authority entered into a cooperative agreement with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for construction capital and construction support services for the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project. Board of Directors' approval is requested to amend the cooperative agreement to reallocate \$2,760,000 of existing contingency funds for construction support services and allocate \$1,194,039 of SB 125 (Chapter 54, Statutes of 2023) Transit Program accrued interest funds for construction capital and construction support services.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, to reallocate \$2,760,000 in contingency funds and \$1,194,039 in new funding, for construction support services related to the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project.
- B. Authorize the use of up to \$1,194,039 in SB 125 Transit Program accrued interest funds for the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project.
- C. Authorize staff to process all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and execute or amend all necessary agreements to facilitate the above actions.

Discussion

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in coordination with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), is replacing the 100-year-old railroad bridge over San Juan Creek, located in the City of San Juan Capistrano, near the Interstate 5 Camino Capistrano off-ramp (Attachment A). This railroad bridge, built in 1917, is used daily by Metrolink, Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner, and freight trains. The bridge has reached the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement. The San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project (Project) will construct a new bridge west of the existing bridge to maintain a state of good repair, enhance safety, reduce maintenance needs, and meet current rail design and load standards. Environmental clearance under the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act was completed by SCRRA in March 2020.

In April 2020, OCTA and SCRRA executed Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 which initially provided \$36,903,645 for construction capital and support services. Under this cooperative agreement, SCRRA serves as the lead agency for design and construction, and OCTA provides support for property acquisition and public outreach.

Following receipt of the construction bids on September 15, 2023, which came in higher than anticipated due to prevailing market conditions, increased signal construction costs, and updated project contingencies, the funding necessary for the completion of the Project increased from \$41,790,000 to \$65,581,118. Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 was executed on February 14, 2024, in the amount of \$22,578,258, to increase OCTA's maximum obligation to \$59,481,903. OCTA retained \$6,099,000 for project management, right-of-way, utilities, public outreach, and project contingency.

Construction is progressing as planned, with a major milestone achieved on October 27, 2025, when passenger and freight rail operations transitioned to the newly constructed San Juan Creek Bridge. As the Project advances, funding needs have been reassessed to complete the remaining work, which includes additional wall structures within the creek, demolition of the existing bridge, and construction of new bridge substructures. These activities are scheduled for the 2026 dry season, with project completion expected in early 2027. The remaining work will continue to require construction support services, project management, construction management, design services during construction, and railroad flagging.

Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 proposes releasing \$2,760,000 in contingency funds for additional construction support services and allocating an additional \$1,194,039 from SB 125 accrued interest. Combined, these adjustments increase the available funding to SCRRA by \$3,954,039, ensuring adequate resources for ongoing construction support.

With this amendment, the maximum obligation under Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 would increase from \$59,481,903 to \$63,435,942 (Attachment B). The use of accrued interest from SB 125 funds is consistent with SB 125 program guidelines. A summary of the recommended programming actions can be found in the Capital Funding Program Report (Attachment C).

While the Project remains on schedule, unforeseen field conditions could result in additional costs as construction continues. Staff will continue to monitor these factors and present any significant impacts to the Board of Directors (Board) through future budget updates or cooperative agreement amendments.

Fiscal Impact

Funding will be programmed in the OCTA Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, Capital Programs Division, Account No. 0017-7831-TR022-ODM, in the amount of \$3,954,039, to accommodate Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540.

Summary

Board approval is requested to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 between OCTA and SCRRA, in the amount of \$3,954,039, for additional construction support services for the Project. This will increase the maximum obligation of the cooperative agreement to a total contract value of \$63,435,942. Additionally, staff also request authorization to use up to \$1,194.039 in SB 125 accrued interest funds and to process the necessary Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendments and related agreements.

Attachments

- A. San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project Location Map
- B. Southern California Regional Rail Authority, Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 Fact sheet
- C. Capital Funding Program Report

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