



**June 16, 2026**

**To:** Transit Committee

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

**Subject:** Amendment to the Agreement for the Newport Transportation Center Relocation Feasibility Study

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell E. Johnson", is written over the "From:" line of the memo.

**Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority and the City of Newport Beach are conducting a joint feasibility study evaluating potential relocation of the Newport Transportation Center. On January 28, 2026, a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. was executed to perform the study. An amendment to the existing agreement is needed to provide additional planning support services to expand the study scope, including evaluation of additional potential relocation sites to support a broader, system-level analysis of long-term transit needs.

**Recommendation**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. C250111 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$350,000, for additional planning services related to the potential relocation of the Newport Transportation Center. This will increase the maximum cumulative obligation of the contract to a total contract value of \$846,635.

**Background**

The Newport Transportation Center (NTC), located at 1550 Avocado Avenue in the City of Newport Beach (City), serves as a key hub for the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) OC Bus service, providing regional access to destinations across Orange County and connections to employment, educational, recreational, and commercial centers. The NTC opened for bus service in 1991 through an agreement with the Irvine Company and currently serves four OC Bus routes: 1, 55, 57, and 79. The site also functions as a park-and-ride facility and has long served as an anchor for transit access in central coastal Orange County.

In June 2025, the Newport Beach City Council directed City staff to explore relocating Fire Station No. 3 to the current NTC site. The City subsequently requested that OCTA partner in a feasibility study to evaluate the potential relocation of the NTC. In October 2025, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City to perform the NTC Relocation Feasibility Study (Study) to evaluate the potential feasibility of relocating the site. The cooperative agreement was finalized on December 15, 2025, and a consultant contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR), was executed on January 28, 2026. Staff provided a status update on the Study to the Transit Committee on April 9, 2026, and under a separate item concurrent with this June 11, 2026, Transit Committee agenda.

***Discussion***

The Study was originally scoped to evaluate up to three potential relocation sites identified by and located within the City. This approach reflected the City's interest in relocating the existing NTC site and identifying feasible replacement locations within its jurisdiction.

As the Study has progressed, the project team has identified an opportunity to expand the analysis to better reflect broader, system-level transit planning considerations. The existing NTC functions as a regional transit hub, serving multiple routes that connect riders from across Orange County to key employment, commercial, civic, and coastal destinations. Consistent with OCTA's role in planning and operating the countywide transit system, this broader evaluation is necessary to ensure that any potential relocation preserves and supports current and future transit service, rider access, operational feasibility, and system connectivity. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 130240, OCTA is authorized to acquire, develop, operate, maintain, use, or dispose of transit-related facilities and property interests, including bus lines, stations, terminals, parking lots, and related access or development rights that are incidental to, necessary for or convenient for transit service within the County of Orange. Accordingly, the expanded scope is consistent with OCTA's statutory authority to evaluate transit facilities and related property interests that may be necessary or convenient for long-term transit service. Limiting the evaluation of sites may constrain the ability to identify locations that best serve both current and future transit demand.

The proposed amendment will expand the Study scope to include evaluation of up to five additional candidate sites located within southwest Orange County, including the cities of Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, and southwest portions of Irvine and Santa Ana. These additional sites will be identified based on regional

mobility patterns, ridership demand, connectivity to the existing bus network, and long-term system performance. This expanded analysis will allow the project team to assess potential relocation opportunities under a broader, more forward-looking framework, consistent with long-range transit planning objectives.

The additional work will include screening and evaluation of candidate sites, expanded existing and future ridership analysis, refinement of evaluation criteria to incorporate regional considerations, and technical analysis of operational feasibility, ridership impacts, and connectivity. This effort is intended to supplement, not replace, the original Study scope and will provide a more comprehensive understanding of potential relocation options.

Approval of the proposed contract amendment will allow OCTA to continue coordinating with the City while ensuring the Study fully considers near-term feasibility, long-term transit needs, rider impacts, regulatory requirements, and future implementation considerations.

### ***Procurement Approach***

The procurement was originally handled in accordance with OCTA's Board-approved procedures for professional and technical services. The original agreement was issued with a maximum obligation of \$496,635, for a 12-month term. OCTA staff and HDR reviewed and agreed to the level of effort for additional professional services. Staff requested a cost proposal from HDR and found the cost proposal, in the amount of \$350,000, to be fair and reasonable relative to the negotiated level of effort and the independent cost estimate prepared by OCTA staff.

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. C250111, in the amount of \$350,000, will increase the total contract value to \$846,635.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The Study was approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, Account No. 1539-7519-D0001-8U2 and is funded with a combination of federal and local funds.

**Summary**

Staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. C250111 between OCTA and HDR in the amount of \$350,000, for additional planning services for the Study. This will increase the maximum obligation of the agreement to a total contract value of \$846,635.

**Attachment**

- A. HDR Engineering, Inc., Agreement No. C250111 Fact Sheet

**Prepared by:**



Katie Persons  
Department Manager,  
Transit Planning  
(714) 560-5683

**Approved by:**



Rose Casey  
Executive Director, Planning  
(714) 560-5729



Pia Veesapen  
Director, Contracts Administration and  
Materials Management  
(714) 560-5619