

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING C-6-0834

AMONG

CITIES OF COSTA MESA, FOUNTAIN VALLEY AND HUNTINGTON BEACH

AND

THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

REGARDING

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATION

FOR THE

GARFIELD-GISLER BRIDGE CROSSING OVER THE SANTA ANA RIVER

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into among the Orange County Transportation Authority, hereinafter referred to as the OCTA, and the Cities of Fountain Valley, Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach, hereinafter referred to as Cities.

Consistent with the Garfield-Gisler ad-hoc Policy Advisory Committee's consensus recommendation on June 15, 2006, each of the parties to this MOU agrees to support the designation of the Garfield-Gisler Bridge as a "Right-of-Way Reserve"¹ corridor on the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) and, within their respective General Plans/Long Range Plans, implement the Smart Street and Bridge Widening Strategy A (Strategy A) improvements within their jurisdictions and ensure that buildout of the Garfield-Gisler Bridge is not assumed for land use planning or traffic analysis purposes. This MOU describes the specific duties and responsibilities of each party with respect to supporting these actions.

This document establishes obligations on all parties and constitutes an exchange of promises.

¹ The Right-of-Way Reserve classification allows local jurisdictions considering deletion of a planned MPAH facility to request OCTA to re-designate the adopted facility as a "Right of Way Reserve" corridor for a specific length of time in order to assess the actual need for it. If OCTA agrees to re-designate the subject facility as a "Right-of-Way Reserve" corridor on the MPAH, then all appropriate City General Plan Circulation Elements shall be revised to reflect such re-designation. During the "reserve" period, the right-of-way shall be preserved however, the planned street shall not be considered as mitigation for development planning purposes. At the end of the designated period, a final decision shall be made regarding reinstatement or deletion of the street on the MPAH.

Recital

The parties acknowledge that this MOU requires that certain actions be taken with regard to amending the general plans and capital improvement programs of the parties hereto and that the parties hereto cannot predetermine those actions that are the subject of public hearings. Nevertheless, the parties agree that the benefits of this MOU are dependent on such actions and therefore commit to conducting said hearings within 6 months of the effective date of this agreement. If such action is not taken within said time line, the benefits of this agreement shall not be available to the parties unless all parties consent to an extension or other arrangement.

Section 1. MPAH and General Plan/Long Range Plan Designations**1.1 OCTA Responsibilities****1.1.1 Amend Master Plan of Arterial Highways**

After the cities have amended their General Plans, OCTA shall amend the MPAH to re-designate the Garfield-Gisler Bridge, and the eastbound and westbound approaches thereto, as a "Right-of-Way Reserve" corridor. Consistent with the MPAH's original concept for the Garfield-Gisler Bridge, the right-of-way reservation shall be for a secondary arterial highway in Costa Mesa and a primary arterial in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach.

1.1.2 Amend Orange County Long Range Transportation Plan

After the MPAH has been amended and during the next update to the Orange County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), OCTA shall ensure that the Garfield-Gisler Bridge, and the eastbound and westbound approaches thereto, are reflected as a "Right-of-Way Reserve" corridor in the LRTP.

1.2 Cities' Responsibilities**1.2.1 Amend General Plans**

The Cities shall pursue amendment of their General Plan Circulation Elements to reflect that the Garfield- Gisler Bridge and the eastbound and westbound approaches thereto have been designated as a "Right-of-Way Reserve" corridor in the MPAH. Consistent with the MPAH's original concept for the Garfield-Gisler Bridge, the City of Costa Mesa's General Plan shall reserve right-of-way for a secondary

arterial highway within the Garfield-Gisler corridor and the Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach General Plans shall reserve right-of-way for a primary arterial highway within the Garfield-Gisler corridor. Cities shall endeavor to complete the General Plan amendment process within 6 months of final adoption of this MOU.

Section 2. Reasonable Progress Toward Implementing Strategy A Improvements

2.1 OCTA Responsibilities

2.1.1 OCTA Responsibilities for Strategy A Improvements

To ensure reasonable progress toward implementation of Strategy A improvements, OCTA shall:

- a. Make funding for implementation of the Strategy A improvements, as defined in the *Circulation Feasibility Study and Cost Estimate for the Garfield-Gisler Crossing Over the Santa Ana River* (LSA, June 2006), available to the Cities through the Combined Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP). A list of the improvements included in Strategy A is provided as Attachment A hereto.
- b. Utilize the renewed Measure M Signal Synchronization Program and other CTFP programs as funding sources for implementation of the roadway improvements included in Strategy A.

2.2 Cities' Responsibilities

2.2.1 Cities' Responsibilities for Strategy A Improvements

To ensure reasonable progress toward implementation of Strategy A improvements, the Cities shall:

- a. Include Strategy A improvements, as defined in the *Circulation Feasibility Study and Cost Estimate for the Garfield-Gisler Crossing Over the Santa Ana River* (LSA, June 2006), in their Capital Improvement Programs. All projects that emanate from Strategy A shall be considered multi-jurisdictional projects and shall, therefore, be eligible for additional points in OCTA's project prioritization process under the CTFP. A list of the improvements included in Strategy A is provided as Attachment A hereto.

/

/

1 b. Make applications to OCTA for CTFP funding to implement Strategy A improvements. Such
2 applications shall be supported by local match commitments consistent with the
3 requirements of the CTFP programs from which funds are being requested.

4 1. Cities agree to make Strategy A projects a priority for available GMA or other
5 interregional funding programs.

6 c. Implement Strategy A improvements as expeditiously as possible.

7 1. Cities agree to initiate Smart Street improvements on Harbor, Brookhurst, Adams and
8 Fairview by the end of calendar year 2010. For purposes of this MOU, Smart Street
9 improvements are defined as synchronization of traffic signals, removal of on-street
10 parking and re-striping within existing right-of-way.

11 2. Cities agree to make reasonable progress on the Capital Projects by 2015, subject to
12 funding availability. "Reasonable progress" shall be defined as inclusion of noted
13 projects in Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs), preparation of preliminary plans,
14 environmental studies, etc. For the purposes of this MOU, Capital Projects are defined
15 as construction of bus turnouts, consolidation of driveways, construction of turn-pockets,
16 street widening or bridge widening.

17 3. Cities agree that all Strategy A improvements shall be completed by 2020. If the Cities of
18 Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach do not complete their portions of Strategy A
19 improvements by end of calendar year 2020, then the Garfield-Gisler Bridge will
20 automatically be re-instated on the MPAH as a planned facility. If the City of Fountain Valley
21 has not completed the Strategy A improvements in their city, the Garfield-Gisler Bridge will
22 remain designated "Right of Way Reserve" corridor until all improvements are completed.

23 /
24 /
25 /
26 /

Section 3. Land Use and Transportation Planning and Traffic Analysis

3.1 OCTA Responsibilities

3.1.1 OCTA Responsibilities with Respect to Transportation Planning and Traffic Analysis

- a. OCTA shall ensure that buildout of the Garfield-Gisler Bridge, and the eastbound and westbound approaches thereto, is not assumed in any of its transportation planning or traffic modeling activities.
- b. OCTA shall ensure that implementation of the Strategy A program of projects is assumed in its transportation planning, modeling, and analysis activities.

3.2 Cities' Responsibilities

3.2.1 Land Use Planning

The Cities shall ensure that buildout of the Garfield-Gisler Bridge, and the eastbound and westbound approaches thereto, is not assumed in any of its land use planning activities.

3.2.2 Transportation Planning and Traffic Analysis

The Cities shall ensure that buildout of the Garfield-Gisler Bridge, and the eastbound and westbound approaches thereto, is not assumed in any of its transportation planning, traffic modeling, or traffic analysis activities.

Section 4. Compliance Monitoring and Reporting

4.1 OCTA Responsibilities

4.1.1 OCTA Responsibilities for Monitoring & Reporting City Compliance

- a. OCTA shall monitor the Cities' compliance with the provisions of this MOU every two years through the MPAH Certification Review Process to ensure that the Cities are complying fully with the provisions of this agreement and making reasonable progress toward implementation of the Strategy A improvements. Progress reports shall be presented to the OCTA Board of Directors and the Cities every two years, at the conclusion of the review process.

/

/

1 b. Upon completion of all the Strategy A improvements, and consistent with OCTA guidance for
2 MPAH Right-of-Way Reserve corridors, OCTA in coordination with the cities shall re-evaluate
3 traffic levels of service in the project study area to determine whether to delete, continue the
4 reserve, or re-instate the Garfield-Gisler Bridge onto the MPAH as a planned facility.

5 **4.2 Cities' Responsibilities**

6 4.2.1 Cities Responsibilities for Reporting Compliance


7 The Cities shall provide progress reports to OCTA every two years through the MPAH Certification
8 Review Process as a means of communicating that the provisions included herein are being
9 implemented fully and expeditiously and that reasonable progress is being made toward
10 implementation of the Strategy A improvements.


11 /
12 /
13 /
14 /
15 /
16 /
17 /
18 /
19 /
20 /
21 /
22 /
23 /
24 /
25 /
26 /


Section 5. Amendment

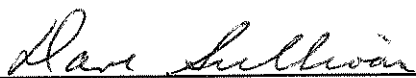
5.1 Amendment

This MOU may be amended by the written consent of all four parties which are signatories hereto.


 _____ 12-02-06
 THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (Date)


 _____ 12-4-06
 MAYOR, CITY OF COSTA MESA (Date)


 _____ 12.5.2006
 MAYOR, CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY (Date)


 _____ 11-30-06
 MAYOR, CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH (Date)

1 Introduction

2 Through its General Plan Circulation Element, each of the cities within the Garfield/Gisler Bridge
3 Crossing Study Area has established traffic level of service (LOS) D or better as representative of
4 acceptable operating conditions on roadways within its jurisdiction. The Garfield/Gisler Study Area
5 currently experiences significant traffic delay at several locations. In addition, the OCTAM model
6 predicts that several intersections in the project study area will operate below LOS D in the Year 2030 if
7 no improvements are made. To help the cities achieve and/or maintain LOS D operations, where
8 feasible, throughout the project study area, Smart Street and Bridge Widening Strategy A includes a list
9 of improvements to offset the traffic impacts associated with projected growth in traffic volumes. That
10 program of projects is presented below.

11 One of the key concepts included in the "Consensus MOU²" is that each of the cities within the
12 Garfield/Gisler Bridge Crossing Study Area will make "reasonable progress" toward implementing the
13 improvements included in Smart Street and Bridge Widening Strategy A. The intent of this concept is
14 that the cities will, individually and collectively, make reasonable efforts to implement the proposed
15 improvement(s) before traffic levels of service fall below the cities' LOS D standard at any of the
16 locations included in the Smart Street and Bridge Widening Strategy A program of projects.

17 It should be noted that although the Smart Street and Bridge Widening Strategy A program of projects
18 is specific, it is not meant to be prescriptive. If a city is able to identify an alternative traffic flow
19 improvement which meets the overall objective of achieving and/or maintaining LOS D at any location
20 within the study area, then that improvement shall be considered an acceptable alternative and shall be
21 implemented as a substitute solution to the original recommendation.

22 /

23 /

24 /

25 ² *i.e.*, the "Memorandum of Understanding among Cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley and Huntington
26 Beach and the Orange County Transportation Authority Regarding Agency Responsibilities for Implementing
the Consensus Recommendation for the Garfield/Gisler Bridge Crossing Over the Santa Ana River", October
27, 2006.

1 **City of Costa Mesa**

- 2 CM-1 Implement and maintain synchronized traffic signals along Harbor Boulevard between I-405
3 and Adams Ave.
- 4 CM-2 Implement and maintain synchronized traffic signals along Fairview Road between I-405
5 and Adams Avenue.
- 6 CM-3 Implement and maintain synchronized traffic signals along Adams Avenue between the
7 Santa Ana River and Fairview Road; coordinate cross-jurisdictional traffic synchronization
8 with the City of Huntington Beach.
- 9 CM-4 Install a bus turnout at the existing bus stop at northbound Harbor Boulevard at Adams
10 Avenue.
- 11 CM-5 Install a bus turnout at the existing bus stop at northbound Harbor Boulevard at MacArthur
12 Boulevard.
- 13 CM-6 Consolidate driveways on the northbound side of Harbor Boulevard at Adams Avenue.
- 14 CM-7 Modify the existing traffic signal at W. Mesa Verde Drive/Adams Avenue to provide a
15 northbound right-turn overlap with the westbound left-turn phase.
- 16 CM-8 Maintain the existing northbound and southbound split phase at Hyland Avenue/ MacArthur
17 Boulevard. Re-stripe the northbound approach to provide dual left-turn lanes, one shared
18 left-through lane, and one right-turn lane.
- 19 CM-9 Add a fourth through lane in the northbound approach Harbor Boulevard/Gisler Avenue.³
- 20 CM-10 Add a third northbound left-turn lane at Harbor Boulevard/Adams Avenue, creating triple
21 200-foot northbound turn lanes with a 120-foot bay taper. Add a southbound right-turn lane
22 for 150 feet with a 90-foot bay taper. Convert the fourth southbound through lane into a
23 shared through-right lane. Add a third eastbound left-turn lane, creating triple 350-foot
24 eastbound left-turn lanes with a 120-foot bay taper.

25 /

1 CM-11 Modify the existing traffic signal at Fairview Road/Baker Avenue to provide a northbound
2 right-turn overlap with the westbound left-turn phase.

3 **City of Fountain Valley**

4 FV-1 Implement and maintain synchronized traffic signals along Brookhurst Street between Ellis
5 Avenue and Garfield Avenue; coordinate cross-jurisdictional traffic synchronization with the
6 City of Huntington Beach.

7 FV-2 Under the lead of the County of Orange or the Orange County Transportation Authority and
8 in coordination with the cities of Costa Mesa and Santa Ana, widen the Talbert
9 Avenue/MacArthur Boulevard Bridge over the Santa Ana River from four to six lanes.

10 FV-3 Remove on-street parking on northbound Brookhurst Street between Ellis Avenue and
11 Garfield Avenue.

12 FV-4 Modify the existing traffic signal at Ward Street/Talbert Avenue to provide a northbound
13 right-turn overlap with the westbound left-turn phase.

14 FV-5 Under the lead of Caltrans or the Orange County Transportation Authority, reconstruct the
15 westbound right-turn lane at I-405 Southbound Ramp/Ellis Avenue as a channelized free
16 right-turn lane onto the I-405 southbound on-ramp. Eliminate the eastbound left-turn
17 movements by constructing a dedicated eastbound through lane that becomes a slip on-
18 ramp to southbound I-405.⁴

19 FV-6 Reconstruct the northbound right-turn lane on Newhope Street as a channelized free right-
20 turn lane from to eastbound Talbert Avenue (or a City-defined alternative which would
21 achieve LOS D or better in the year 2030).

22 /
23 /
24 /

25 ³ Improvements to this intersection are already planned and funded.

26 ⁴ These improvements will be most effective with associated ramp and mainline improvements as part of a separate effort to improve traffic flow along I-405.

1 **City of Huntington Beach**

2 HB-1 Implement and maintain synchronized traffic signals along Brookhurst Street between
3 Garfield Avenue and Adams Avenue; coordinate cross-jurisdictional traffic synchronization
4 with the City of Fountain Valley.

5 HB-2 Implement and maintain synchronized traffic signals along Adams Avenue between
6 Brookhurst Street and the Santa Ana River; coordinate cross-jurisdictional traffic
7 synchronization with the City of Costa Mesa.

8 HB-3 Remove on-street parking on northbound Brookhurst Street between Garfield Avenue and
9 Adams Avenue.

10 HB-4 Install a bus turnout at the existing bus stop at northbound Brookhurst Street at Adams
11 Avenue.

12 HB-5 Install a bus turnout at the existing bus stop at southbound Brookhurst Street at Adams
13 Avenue.

14 HB-6 Consolidate driveways on the northbound and southbound sides of Brookhurst Street at
15 Adams Avenue.

16 HB-7 Add a fourth through lane in the north, south, east, and westbound approaches at
17 Brookhurst Street/Adams Avenue. Add dedicated right-turn lanes in the north and
18 southbound approaches.

19 HB-8 Add a second southbound left-turn lane at Bushard Street/Adams Avenue, creating dual
20 200-foot southbound left-turn lanes with a 120-bay taper.