



July 6, 2026

To: Regional Transportation Planning Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

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

Subject: Amendment to Agreement for Additional Design Services for State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 5 and State Route 91

Overview

On February 14, 2022, the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors authorized an agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc., for the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91. An amendment to the existing agreement is required for additional design services.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. C-1-3643 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$1,071,679, for additional design services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91. This will increase the maximum cumulative obligation of the agreement to a total contract value of \$11,420,281.
- B. Authorize the use of up to \$1,626,281 in Measure M2 funds, for additional design services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91.
- 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 partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is implementing the State Route 55 (SR-55) Improvement Project between Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 91 (Project). The Project is Project F in the Measure M2 (M2)

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freeway program and is being advanced through the updated Next 10 Delivery Plan adopted by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) in December 2025.

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

Additionally, the Project provides standard curb ramps and sidewalks along the adjacent impacted arterials within the project improvement areas that improve active transportation options and provide continuity for pedestrians. The plans, specifications, and estimates for the Project are currently being prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR).

Additional project scope has been identified, which requires further effort to complete the design on schedule. An amendment to the project design agreement is recommended for the following additional services:

Roadway Design

- Caltrans requested modifications to the access control along Tustin Street to place the existing Southern California Edison power pole outside of Caltrans' jurisdiction.
- Due to the changes to the Caltrans multi-asset project within the project limits which includes new lighting systems, HDR is required to update the electrical plans to reflect the existing field conditions.
- To meet drainage quality requirements throughout the project area, Caltrans requested additional drainage features and planting.
- Caltrans requires all the traffic equipment within their proposed right-of-way (ROW) to be owned and operated by Caltrans. The traffic signal at the intersection of the Tustin Street off-ramp is currently owned by the City of Orange. Design modifications are needed for Caltrans' acquisition of the ramp intersection.
- Caltrans updates their standard plans and standard specifications twice every year, and roadway and structures designs need to conform to the new Caltrans standards. Design plans and specifications for the Project

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need to be updated and reviewed by various departments at Caltrans to obtain approval.

Reports

- A supplemental project report needs to be developed to document design changes. Since the original project report was approved during the environmental phase, there have been additional ROW needs identified at the Tustin Street off-ramp intersection and those need to be addressed in the supplemental project report.

ROW Engineering Services

- Additional ROW acquisition efforts are needed for the relocation of the SB Lincoln Avenue off-ramp, including the development of new ROW maps and other documentation of ROW needs.

Staff is requesting the use of an additional \$1,626,281 in M2 funds. The difference between the additional funding request and the amount of the HDR amendment is due to a discrepancy identified in the previously approved Board amount. The use of additional M2 funds for the Project is consistent with the Capital Programming Policies as this is Project F in the Next 10 Delivery Plan. This update is reflected in the Capital Funding Program Report, which depicts funding for OCTA projects.

Procurement Approach

The procurement was originally handled in accordance with OCTA's Board-approved procedures for architectural and engineering services, which conform to both state and federal laws. The original firm-fixed price agreement was executed on August 8, 2022, in the amount of \$9,110,101. This agreement has previously been amended as shown in Attachment A. It has become necessary to amend the existing agreement to add funds for additional design services.

OCTA staff negotiated the required level of effort with HDR to provide additional design services. Staff found HDR's cost proposal, in the amount of \$1,071,679, to be fair and reasonable relative to the negotiated level of effort and the independent cost estimate prepared by the OCTA project manager. The proposed amendment will increase the total contract value to \$11,420,281.

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Fiscal Impact

The additional funding for the Project is included in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, Capital Programs Division, Account No. 0017-7519-FF102-0WZ, and will be funded with a combination of federal and local M2 funds.

Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. C-1-3643 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$1,071,679, for additional design services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91.

Attachments

- A. HDR Engineering, Inc., Agreement No. C-1-3643 Fact Sheet
- B. Capital Funding Program Report

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