



August 13, 2026

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 Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority for the construction of the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project. Board of Directors' approval is requested to amend the cooperative agreement to provide additional funding for construction, construction management, and flagging support services to complete the project.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 3 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to increase the Orange County Transportation Authority's maximum obligation by \$4,250,000, from \$63,435,942 to \$67,685,942, for additional construction and construction support services associated with the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project.
- B. Authorize the use of up to \$4,250,000 in SB 125 (Chapter 54, Statutes of 2023) 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, used by Metrolink, Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner, and freight trains, has reached the end of its useful life. The San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project (Project) will construct a new bridge west of the existing structure to maintain the asset in 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 on March 26, 2020.

OCTA and SCRRA executed Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 on April 14, 2020, initially providing \$36,900,000 for construction capital and support services. Under this cooperative agreement, SCRRA would lead design and construction, and OCTA would support property acquisition and public outreach. After receiving bids and updating signal costs and contingencies, the Project budget increased to \$65,581,118. Amendment No. 1 was executed on February 14, 2024, to increase OCTA's maximum obligation to \$59,481,903. OCTA retained \$6,099,000 for project management, right-of-way and utilities, public outreach, and project contingency.

On November 13, 2025, the Board of Directors (Board) approved Amendment No. 2, which increased SCRRA's available funding by \$3,954,039 using project contingency funds. The additional funding was necessary due to increased level of effort to support project management, construction management, design services during construction, and railroad flagging. Amendment No. 2 increased OCTA's maximum obligation under the cooperative agreement from \$59,481,903 to \$63,435,942.

Additional unforeseen field conditions have resulted in a need of an additional \$4,250,000 in funding to complete the Project. The additional funds will support construction, construction management, and railroad flagging services associated with the remaining work, including the construction of sheet piles to protect the bridge from future stormwater erosion. During construction, unforeseen field conditions significantly changed the character of the work requiring different installation equipment, extended construction duration, and challenging installation conditions. With this amendment, OCTA's maximum obligation would increase from \$63,435,942 to \$67,685,942 (Attachment B).

Currently, the Project is partially funded with SB 125 funds, and as part of Amendment No. 2, received approval to use accrued interest from SB 125 funding. Staff is recommending Board approval for the use of additional accrued interest. The use of SB 125 accrued interest on existing projects, such as this project, is consistent with SB 125 guidelines. A summary of the recommended programming actions can be found in the Capital Funding Program Report (Attachment C).

On October 27, 2025, passenger and freight rail service began operating on the newly constructed San Juan Creek Bridge, marking a major project milestone. Demolition of the existing bridge was completed in early April 2026, and construction of the remaining sheet pile creek wall and substructure elements is underway. Completion of the remaining work is anticipated in early 2027.

While the Project remains on schedule, unforeseen field conditions have increased construction costs. Staff will continue to monitor project costs and schedule and present any significant impacts to the Board through future budget updates or cooperative agreement amendments, as necessary.

Fiscal Impact

Funding is programmed in the OCTA Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, Capital Programs Division, Account No. 0017-7831-TR022-ODM, in the amount of \$4,250,000, to accommodate Amendment No. 3 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540.

Summary

Board approval is requested to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 3 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2540 between OCTA and SCRRA, in the amount of \$4,250,000, for additional construction and construction support services associated with the Project. The amendment will increase OCTA's maximum obligation under the cooperative agreement from \$63,435,942 to \$67,685,942.

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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