



**October 6, 2025**

**To:** Regional Transportation Planning Committee

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

**Subject:** Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 5 and State Route 91

### **Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Transportation for construction capital and construction management support services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-5-4264 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$139,597,000, for construction capital and construction management support services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91.

### **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 and State Route 91 (Project). The Project is Project F in the Measure M2 (M2) freeway program and is being advanced through the updated Next 10 Delivery Plan adopted by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) in November 2024.

The Project will add a general purpose lane in each direction between Interstate 5 and State Route 22 and provide operational improvements on the southbound (SB) ramps at Katella Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. An additional lane will be added to the SB SR-55 Katella Avenue off- and on-ramps and the existing SB SR-55 Lincoln Avenue off-ramp will be relocated 1,300 feet to the south, next to the existing SB SR-55 Lincoln Avenue hook on-ramp.

Additionally, the Project provides standard curb ramps and sidewalks within the project improvement areas that improve active transportation options and provide continuity for pedestrians.

On September 9, 2021, the Board authorized Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3642 with Caltrans to provide oversight of the plans, specifications, and estimates, and to advertise and award the construction contract for the Project.

On July 10, 2023, the Board authorized Cooperative Agreement No. C-3-2465 with Caltrans to implement right-of-way (ROW) activities, which include property appraisals and acquisitions, if necessary, and coordination of utility relocations needed for ROW certification for the Project. In addition, on April 14, 2025, the Board approved Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-3-2465 for additional ROW support services. ROW acquisitions are required due to additional ROW needs identified to construct the Project.

A cooperative agreement for the construction phase is required to define the specific roles and funding responsibilities for each agency to provide the construction capital and construction management support services for the Project.

As the implementing agency for construction of the Project, Caltrans will be responsible for the advertisement, award, approval, and administration of the construction contract. Construction bid documents for the Project are currently being prepared for advertisement of the construction contract in fall 2026. The total construction capital funding required for the Project is \$118,828,000 and is funded with M2 funds.

Caltrans and OCTA will share in the construction management support services for the Project. Caltrans will provide the resident engineer, structures representative, and other field personnel, along with construction administrative support and environmental monitoring for the Project, which is estimated to be \$9,207,000 funded with M2 funds. OCTA will retain a consultant firm to augment Caltrans' field staff with roadway inspection, office engineering, materials testing, and claims support services. OCTA's consultant firm will also provide a field office to house construction staff for the Project. The total estimated cost of OCTA's construction support is \$11,562,000 funded with M2 funds. The construction capital and construction support provided by both Caltrans and OCTA yields a total project cost of \$139,597,000.

Additionally, through separate contracts, OCTA will serve as lead agency on the public outreach and freeway service patrol efforts.

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**Fiscal Impact**

The Project will be proposed in OCTA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Budget and subsequent FY budgets, Capital Programs Division, account nos. 0017-9084-FF102-0X0 and 0017-9085-FF102-0X0 and will be funded with M2 funds.

**Summary**

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-5-4264 with the California Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$139,597,000, for the State Route 55 Improvement Project between Interstate 5 and State Route 91.

**Attachment**

None.

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