



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 19, 2005

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: STATE ROUTE 57 EXTENSION ALONG SANTA ANA RIVER

DATE: APRIL 5, 2005

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: WILLIAM J. MORRIS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER, 714-754-5182

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached Resolution (Attachment 1) confirming the City's position on possible extension of State Route 57 (SR-57) Freeway along the Santa Ana River.

BACKGROUND:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has initiated a Major Investment Study (MIS) to evaluate several long-range transportation improvement alternatives in the Central County Corridor Study area shown in (Attachment 2). A considerable number of alternatives will receive preliminary assessment. At the conclusion of the preliminary assessment, a selected number of alternatives will be studied further in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

One of the alternatives proposed for preliminary assessment in the MIS is the extension of SR-57 Freeway along the Santa Ana River between the SR-22 Freeway and Pacific Coast Highway. However, OCTA is considering eliminating the option of extending SR-57 Freeway south of the I-405 Freeway to Pacific Coast Highway due to lack of community support and lack of transportation demand for such a facility.

In 1989, the Costa Mesa City Council adopted Resolution 89-183 (Attachment 3), supporting consideration of the SR-57 extension as a private toll road to intersect I-405 Freeway. At this meeting (minutes included in Attachment 3), the City Council indicated, through a cover letter accompanying the resolution, that the City did not support an extension south of the I-405 Freeway (Attachment 4).

ANALYSIS:

The MIS for the Central County Corridor Study area focuses on addressing both existing and projected demand for the County's north-south travel. Currently, there are no north-south freeways within the study area between the SR-55 and I-605. Consequently, limited number of existing arterials carry significant amount of regional

traffic beyond their designed capacity. The existing SR-55 also lacks adequate capacity to meet current and future travel demands and therefore, experiences severe congestion throughout the day.

In the City of Costa Mesa, several arterials are used for regional travel due to lack of this north-south capacity. These include Newport Boulevard, Harbor Boulevard, Fairview Road, Bristol Street, Adams Avenue, Victoria Street and Baker Street.

The proposed alternatives for the Central County Corridor Study MIS aim at relieving this congestion by considering several improvement options. One of the alternatives is the extension of SR-57 Freeway along the Santa Ana River from its current terminus at I-5/SR-22. The SR-57 Freeway extension alternative includes an option to extend it south of the I-405 Freeway to Pacific Coast Highway. City staff have expressed opposition to the SR-57 Freeway extension south of I-405 Freeway due to its impacts to the residential neighborhoods, as reflected in the earlier City Council position. OCTA is considering eliminating the option of the extension of SR-57 Freeway south of I-405 Freeway due to lack of transportation demand as well as concern from the public.

Staff believes that additional clarity to the original 1989 resolution will assist in reflecting the City's position further on the extension of SR-57 Freeway south of I-405 Freeway. Therefore, consistent with the earlier position, staff has prepared a new resolution which provides support for consideration of the SR-57 Freeway extension alternative in the Central County Corridor Study MIS **only** to the I-405 Freeway. The new resolution also includes opposition to the option of extending south of the existing I-405.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council may elect to not adopt the new resolution. This alternative will result in the continuation of the current resolution as the City's position.

The Council may also elect to place other elements in the new resolution to further clarify its position.

FISCAL REVIEW:

There is no fiscal impact for this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's office has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

CONCLUSION:

OCTA has initiated the Central County Corridor MIS to analyze various transportation improvement strategies to facilitate north-south travel in the study area. One of the alternatives being studied is the extension of the SR-57 Freeway from its current terminus at I-5/SR-22 to Pacific Coast Highway. However, due to lack of community support as well as transportation needs for the extension south of the I-405 Freeway, OCTA is considering eliminating the portion between Pacific Coast Highway and I-405 Freeway from further study.

The City Council in 1989 approved a resolution supporting the extension of the SR-57 Freeway. Staff believes that this resolution could be clarified to further state the City's position on the SR-57 Freeway extension. The attached new resolution provides support for including extension of the SR-57 Freeway up to the I-405 Freeway in the list of alternatives for the Central County Corridor MIS. The resolution also includes the City's opposition to the study of any alternative that incorporates the extension of the SR-57 Freeway south of the I-405 Freeway.

Staff recommends the City Council approval of the attached resolution.

PETER NAGHAVI

Transportation Services Manager

WILLIAM J. MORRIS

Director of Public Services

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager
Deputy City Clerk
Deputy City Manager – Dev. Svcs.
Director of Public Services
Staff
File

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Resolution on SR-57 Freeway Extension](#)
2 [Central County Corridor Study Area](#)
3 [Resolution 89-183](#)
4 [Letter from Mayor](#)

File Name

Date

Time