



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 16, 2010

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: APPROVE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT C-9-0385 AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING C-0-1306 FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF SR-55 ACCESS STUDY

DATE: MARCH 4, 2010

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RAJA SETHURAMAN, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER - (714) 754-5032

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve Cooperative Agreement C-9-0385 (Attachment 1) between Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and City of Costa Mesa for the SR-55 Access Study.
2. Approve Memorandum of Understanding C-0-1306 (Attachment 2) between OCTA, State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and Cities of Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, and Huntington Beach.
3. Authorize the City Manager and the City Attorney to accept minor revisions to both the Cooperative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding based on discussions with OCTA, Caltrans, and other cities involved.
4. Authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk to execute the Cooperative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.

BACKGROUND:

Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) currently terminates at 19th Street and continues south through Downtown Costa Mesa as Newport Boulevard. This major arterial, under the jurisdiction of State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), carries over 100,000 vehicles per day at the SR-55 Freeway terminus at 19th Street. The result is severe congestion at several intersections within the downtown area, and the conditions are exasperated during summer months due to beach traffic. Other related impacts include pedestrian accessibility issues, business access, and cut-through traffic within the adjacent east side residential streets.

Caltrans Route Concept Report currently designates SR-55 Freeway to extend south to Industrial Way in an easterly alignment with significant impacts to homes and businesses in Costa Mesa. In order to determine other alternatives to the extension of the SR-55 Freeway, OCTA, in cooperation with the City of Costa Mesa and participation by Caltrans, and other agencies initiated the SR-55 Access Study in May 2007. Based on the findings by the consultant team, and input from Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the public, seven project alternatives were developed. These alternatives are described and depicted in Attachment 3.

At the October 7, 2008, regular City Council meeting, all alternatives in Attachment 3 were considered, and the following four alternatives were recommended for further study:

- Alternative 1 – No Build/Baseline
- Alternative 3 – Transportation System Management
- Alternative 5 – Vertical Terminal Enhancement
- Alternative 7 – Cut and Cover Under Newport Boulevard

OCTA Board of Directors also approved a similar recommendation on October 27, 2008. Attachment 4 includes the SR-55 Access Study Executive Summary.

In July 2009, the Cities of Costa Mesa, Newport Beach and Huntington Beach, send a joint letter to OCTA requesting that the next phase of the study be initiated under the leadership of OCTA using the cooperative study process involving all parties. OCTA concurred with the Cities' request and in conjunction with City of Costa Mesa and Caltrans staff developed scope of work for the next phase of the study.

ANALYSIS:

The next phase of SR-55 Access Study is the preparation of Project Study Report/Project Development Support (PSR/PDS). This document will be used to further analyze and refine the project alternatives, estimate project scope, schedule, and costs. While the PSR/PDS will be managed by OCTA, the extensive public outreach and business impact analysis will be led by the City of Costa Mesa. The funding for PSR/PDS will be primarily from the federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant and OCTA's Growth Management Area (GMA) program. A total of \$1,000,000 will be available from the RSTP grant and \$100,000 is programmed with GMA funds. Approximately \$50,000 of the City's share will be allocated from funds budgeted for the SR-55 Downgrade Study.

In order to guide the project management efforts as well as to specify funding responsibilities, OCTA and City of Costa Mesa will have to enter into a Cooperative Agreement. The attached Cooperative Agreement C-9-0385 was prepared by OCTA and was reviewed by City of Costa Mesa staff.

In addition to the above Cooperative Agreement, OCTA also prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that includes OCTA, Caltrans, and the Cities of Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. The MOU identifies more specific agency roles and responsibilities for completing the proposed study.

The City Attorney and staff have reviewed the Cooperative Agreement and MOU and approved them as to form. As these agreements have to be reviewed and approved by several agencies, staff requests City Council approval of them with further authority provided to the City Manager and City Attorney to accept minor revisions. Staff anticipates any further revisions to be minor and technical in nature. In addition, staff requests that the City Council authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the final agreements.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

One alternative would be to not approve the Cooperative Agreements and MOU. However, this alternative will result in cancellation of the next phase of the SR-55 Access Study.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The next phase of the SR-55 Access Study, Project Study Report/Project Development Support, will be funded primarily from federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) in the amount of \$1,000,000 and OCTA Growth Management Area (GMA) grant of \$100,000. The City of Costa Mesa is required to fund up to \$50,000 from the budgeted SR-55 Downgrade Study project.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's office has reviewed and approved the attached Cooperative Agreement and MOU as to form.

CONCLUSION:

In October 2008, OCTA and City of Costa Mesa completed the SR-55 Access Study that recommended four alternatives for further consideration in the next phase of the study. This phase is called Project Study Report/Project Development Support (PSR/PDS), and it further analyzes the alternatives as well as develops cost estimates and a schedule for future activities. OCTA will lead the PSR/PDS stage with support from Caltrans, Costa Mesa and other agencies. In order to conduct this study, the attached Cooperative Agreement between OCTA and City of Costa Mesa and the attached MOU between OCTA, Caltrans, and Cities of Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach needs to be approved. Staff requests City Council approval of the agreements and authorize City Manager and City Clerk to execute the final agreements. Staff also requests City Council authorization for City Manager and City Attorney to accept minor revisions to the agreement prior to finalizing.

RAJA SETHURAMAN
Transportation Services Manager

PETER NAGHAVI, Director
Department of Public Services

ATTACHMENTS: 1 - [Cooperative Agreement C-9-0385](#)
 2 - [Memorandum of Understanding C-0-1306](#)
 3 - [SR-55 Access Study - Alternatives 1 through 7](#)
 4 - [SR-55 Access Study – Executive Summary](#)

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager
 Assistant City Manager
 City Attorney
 City Clerk
 Development Services Director
 Director of Public Services