



# *CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT*

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MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2011

ITEM NUMBER: \_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE HARBOR BOULEVARD TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT AND THE BRISTOL STREET/STATE COLLEGE BOULEVARD TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 3, 2011

**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

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve Memorandum of Understanding No. C-9-0824 between the City of Costa Mesa and the Orange County Transportation Authority, the Cities of Anaheim, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana, and the State of California Department of Transportation for the Harbor Boulevard Traffic Signal Synchronization Project (Attachment 1);
2. Approve Memorandum of Understanding No. C-9-0826 between the City of Costa Mesa and the Orange County Transportation Authority, the Cities of Anaheim, Brea, Fullerton, Orange, and Santa Ana, and the State of California Department of Transportation for the Bristol Street/State College Traffic Signal Synchronization Project (Attachment 2);
3. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The original Orange County Measure M Program (M1), half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, included a light rail transit element. This has evolved over the years to providing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along three corridors in the County. These selected routes include Harbor Boulevard, Bristol Street/State College Boulevard and 17<sup>th</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue. A key component of the BRT program is the Traffic Signal Synchronization (TSS) along the entire length of these corridors in the County. While the City of Costa Mesa maintains a high level of coordination within the City, the TSS project is inter-jurisdictional and includes other cities and Caltrans. A total of 252 intersections spanning eleven jurisdictions are included in the TSS program for the above three corridors.

The streets within Costa Mesa included in the Harbor Boulevard TSS project are Harbor Boulevard, Fairview Road, and Adams Avenue. The Bristol Street/State College Boulevard TSS project includes Bristol Street and Fairview Road within the City of Costa Mesa.

The scope of work of the TSS project includes:

- Development of optimized traffic signal synchronization timing plans;
- Installation of traffic signal upgrades;
- Communications upgrade;
- Implementation of timing plans; and
- Conduct before-and-after studies.

### **ANALYSIS:**

OCTA, as part of the BRT project, has undertaken significant data collection over the past two years. These include detailed inventory of all traffic signal equipment in Costa Mesa and other agencies, traffic volume data, and traffic signal timing information. The TSS project will result in a comprehensive review of traffic signal coordination spanning all jurisdictions along Harbor Boulevard and Bristol Street corridors within the County and development of traffic signal synchronization plan through a cooperative process. The City of Costa Mesa will have the final approval authority for implementation of any timing plans developed as part of the project within the City's jurisdiction.

The project will also result in replacement of all out-dated traffic signal controllers at intersections along Harbor Boulevard, in addition to signal communication upgrades. The estimated value of all upgrades is approximately \$180,000 within the City of Costa Mesa. The TSS projects include preparation of detailed before and after studies to document efficiencies achieved with any proposed timing changes. OCTA has successfully several similar TSS projects throughout the County.

The attached Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) define the terms and conditions under which each of the TSS Projects are to be developed. OCTA's responsibilities include overall project coordination, funding, and implementation of the project. The City's responsibilities include providing requested data and maintaining the upgraded equipment and signal timing. Staff recommends execution of the MOUs to enable the implementation of TSS projects along Harbor Boulevard and Bristol Street Corridors in Costa Mesa.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

One alternative would be to not approve the MOUs. However, this alternative would result in elimination of Costa Mesa intersections for consideration of traffic signal synchronization improvements. This will result in the loss of approximately \$180,000 in signal equipment upgrades within the City.

### **FISCAL REVIEW:**

The TSS projects are funded by OCTA. The City of Costa Mesa does not have any fiscal commitment for the projects. The City staff will maintain the signal timing and hardware as part of routine maintenance.

### **LEGAL REVIEW:**

The City Attorney's office has reviewed the attached MOUs and has approved them as to form.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached MOUs between the City of Costa Mesa, OCTA, other agencies, and Caltrans for the implementation of Traffic Signal Synchronization projects along Harbor Boulevard and Bristol Street corridors. Staff also requests City Council authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreements.

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**RAJA SETHURAMAN**  
Transportation Services Manager

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**PETER NAGHAVI**  
Director, Department of Public Services

Attachments:        1 - [Memorandum of Understanding C-9-0824](#)  
                             2 - [Memorandum of Understanding C-9-0826](#)

Distribution:        City Manager  
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                             City Attorney  
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