



ITEM ID: 2025-140-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: March 21, 2025

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

SUBJECT: Construction and Maintenance Agreement for Interstate 5 Irvine OH Widening

Issue

Approval is required to negotiate and execute the Construction and Maintenance Agreement between the California Department of Transportation and the Authority for the Interstate 5 Irvine Overhead Widening Project.

Recommendation

Contracts, Operations, Maintenance and Safety Committee recommended (5-0) that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a Construction and Maintenance Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the Interstate 5 Irvine Overhead Widening Project. The Agreement will provide \$2,235,875 of State funding for project support services and construction.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Safety is Foundational:** We will stay on the leading edge by deploying new technologies and processes to enhance the safety and security of our riders, our fellow employees, and the communities we serve. The Authority's support to the construction of the Interstate 5 Irvine Overhead Widening Project will ensure that all work will be undertaken in compliance with Authority safety practices, standards and criteria to maintain safe and reliable operation of the railroad below.

Background

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wishes to widen the northbound and southbound lanes of the Interstate 5 (I-5) between Sand Canyon Avenue and Alton Parkway in the City of Irvine, Orange County. Every day more than 275,600 motorists drive this segment of I-5, through the cities of Irvine and Tustin, to reach residential, commercial, educational and employment destinations.

Improvements will incorporate the addition of one new general-purpose lane in each direction, the addition of auxiliary lanes for on- and off-ramp merges, and the conversion of existing buffer-separated carpool lanes to a continuous access carpool lane.

Discussion

The I-5 freeway is elevated between Sand Canyon Avenue and Alton Parkway and crosses above the railroad tracks on the "Irvine" structure at Mile Post (MP) 183.30 of the Orange subdivision, on which Metrolink, Amtrak and freight rail services operate below. The proposed project improvements require the "Irvine" structure to be widened, with associated potential impacts to rail operations while the overhead widening foundations, piers and deck are constructed above and around.

The Construction and Maintenance (C&M) Agreement between Caltrans and the Authority addresses the roles and responsibilities of both parties through construction and provides \$2,235,875 of State funding for Authority support services to include Project Management, coordination, and provision of Railroad Operational Protection throughout the construction period. Authority support to the project is essential to ensure that all work will be undertaken in compliance with Authority safety practices, standards and criteria to maintain safe and reliable operation of the railroad below.

The total estimated construction cost is \$220 million. The project is funded with a combination of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant, State Infrastructure Improvement Program, and local M2 funds. Design is now at 95% completion, with construction anticipated to commence in 2026.

Upon completion, there will be no future maintenance responsibilities for the Authority associated with the improved structure.

Budget Impact

There is no budget impact since this is a Third-Party funded Agreement.

Next Steps

Upon Board Authorization, the C & M Agreement for the Interstate 5 Irvine Overhead Widening Project will be executed by both parties.

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Approved by: Justin Fornelli, Chief of Program Delivery