



**ITEM ID:** 2024-156-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** April 5, 2024

**MEETING DATE:** April 12, 2024

**TO:** Contracts, Operations, Maintenance, and Safety Committee

**FROM:** Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

**SUBJECT:** Reimbursement Agreement with Sprint Communications for the relocation of a fiber optic duct bank for the SCORE Simi Valley Double Track Project

**Issue**

Approval is needed to negotiate and execute a Reimbursement Agreement with Sprint Communications for the relocation of a fiber optic duct bank for the SCORE Simi Valley Double Track Project.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee recommend the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a Reimbursement Agreement between the Authority and Sprint Communications for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,577,462.84 for the relocation of a fiber optic duct bank that is required for the SCORE Simi Valley Double Track Project.

**Strategic Commitment**

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Advancing Key Regional Goals:** We will grow the role of regional rail in addressing climate change, air quality, and other pressing issues by advancing toward zero emissions, making rail a compelling alternative to single-occupant automobiles and advancing equity-focused opportunities for all communities throughout Southern California. The SCORE Simi Valley Double Track Project would enable additional capacity and service improvements on Metrolink’s Ventura County Line (VCL).

## **Background**

The key components of the SCORE Simi Valley Double Track Project (Project) are:

- Install 2.2 miles of a 2nd Mainline Track immediately adjacent to the existing Mainline Track;
- Construct a 2nd side platform at the Simi Valley Station with a connecting pedestrian underpass;
- Install pedestrian safety equipment, warning devices, and new track panels at 5 existing grade crossings.

During Project design development in 2020/2021, a conflict was identified with an underground fiber optic duct bank owned by Sprint Communications. Within this duct bank are multiple fiber optic cables that are owned by separate fiber optic carriers, namely Sprint Communications, Verizon, and UP-System.

The fiber optic duct bank was found to be in conflict for approximately 1 mile in length with the Project's 2nd Mainline track, as well as with the 2nd platform and pedestrian underpass at Simi Valley Station, and the grade crossing improvements at Tapo Street, East Los Angeles Avenue, and Hidden Ranch Drive grade crossings. The fiber optic conduit was deemed to require relocation prior to the commencement of the Authority's Project construction.

In 2022, the Authority worked closely with all associated stakeholders, namely Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), to determine financial responsibility for the relocation. Upon review of all existing agreements related to the Sprint Communications fiber optic conduit, it was determined amongst the stakeholders that the Authority's Project would be financially responsible for the relocation.

On February 14, 2023, the Authority and Sprint Communications entered into a Preliminary Engineering Reimbursement Agreement (PERA), under which Sprint Communications developed the Relocation design and undertook the coordination with all associated fiber optic carriers. The duct bank relocation design was completed in August 2023. Although most of the relocation design specifies a trench conduit, there are two (2) deep bore segments that total a combined length of approximately 0.30 miles that are required due to the pedestrian underpass structure at the station and conflicts with other utilities.

## **Discussion**

Sprint Communications commenced preparation of a cost estimate for the duct bank relocation construction, which was submitted to the Authority in February 2024. A key cost driver is the deep bore segments, which costs significantly more than a typical trench segment.

After negotiation, it was determined that a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,577,462.84 was a fair and reasonable cost for the relocation construction.

The Reimbursement Agreement provides Sprint Communications with the financial authority necessary to undertake Relocation construction prior to the commencement of Project construction.

## **Budget Impact**

The amounts for which contract authority is requested are included in the Adopted SCORE Program Capital Budget for FY2023-24 (\$1,577,462.84) and funded with CRISI funds granted by FRA through the SCORE Program.

## **Next Steps**

Upon Board Authorization, the Reimbursement Agreement will be negotiated and executed between the Authority and Sprint Communications.

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