



ITEM ID: 2020-422-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: July 2, 2021

MEETING DATE: July 23, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Arnold Hackett, Interim Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Cooperative Agreement with Orange County Transportation Authority for the Irvine Station Improvements Project - Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation

Issue

Approval is needed to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for the Preliminary Engineering/Environmental Documentation Phase of the Irvine Station Improvements Project at milepost (MP) 185.0 on the Orange Subdivision. The Agreement will define the roles and responsibilities of agencies and reimburse OCTA in an amount not to exceed \$6,330,000 to lead the delivery of the preliminary engineering and environmental documentation phase. Funding will be provided through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant funds as part of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion Program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3425 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Authority in an amount not to exceed \$6,330,000.

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 improvements at the Irvine Station will allow for better-timed transfers and to improve accessibility.

Background

The Authority, in coordination with OCTA, proposes the Irvine Station Improvements Project (Project) which is one of the Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) Phase 1 projects. Improvements include reconfiguring the Irvine Station with additional rail infrastructure to support future expansion of passenger service. The Project Definition Report (PDR) was completed in June 2019 by the Authority, and OCTA is advancing the Project into the preliminary engineering and environmental phase.

The Irvine Station is served by both commuter and intercity passenger rail services through Metrolink's Orange County Line and Inland Empire-Orange County Line, as well as Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner. The Station will serve as a transfer point between Pacific Surfliner trains running to/from San Diego and local Metrolink trains running to/from Los Angeles or the Inland Empire. The Project improvements identified in the PDR include the addition of third and fourth tracks between Milepost (MP) 184.00 and MP 186.7 (approximately 2.7 miles), and station reconfiguration to allow for better-timed transfers and to improve accessibility. The existing configuration at the Station with two main tracks and side platforms has limited capacity and does not allow for operating increased services in and out of the Station.

SCRRA was awarded a \$875,708,000 TIRCP grant by CalSTA in April 2018 to implement the first phase of the SCORE Program. A key project within the SCORE Program is the Irvine Station Improvement Project, which is eligible for funding under the TIRCP grant.

In Spring 2021, the Authority updated the approved SCORE Project Management Plan (PMP), which identified the roles and responsibilities of the Authority as well as each Member Agency, and described how project functions such as scope, schedule, and cost will be managed for SCORE projects. A cooperative agreement with OCTA is requested to define roles, responsibilities, scope, and funding for the preliminary engineering and environmental phase for the Project, which is consistent with the scope and approach as outlined in the PMP.

Discussion

OCTA will be the lead on the preliminary engineering and environmental phase of the Project and will coordinate this work with the Authority who will provide oversight to ensure compliance with Authority engineering standards and operational requirements, alignment with the SCORE program vision, and compliance with the grant terms. The terms of Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3425 designate OCTA as the lead agency and define the Authority's role of providing oversight and design support including right of entry permits, safety training, flagging, and other services as needed for the Project. The Agreement also designates that OCTA would be the direct recipient of \$6,330,000 of TIRCP funds granted by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) through the SCORE Program, covering the efforts of both OCTA and the Authority on the Project. The effort for OCTA's work on the environmental phase of the Project is estimated to be \$5,500,000. The Authority will seek reimbursement

directly from Caltrans for its effort in the amount of \$830,000.

As the Implementing Agency of this phase of the Project, OCTA will work with the California Transit Commission (CTC) to facilitate reporting and payment for completion of the above scope. On June 23-24, 2021, the California Transportation Commission approved an allocation of \$6,330,000 to OCTA for the Project. On July 8, 2021, the OCTA Transit Committee approved Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3425.

Budget Impact

The amounts for which contract authority is requested are included in the Adopted SCORE Program Capital Budget for FY2019-20 (\$6,330,000) and is funded with TIRCP funds granted by CalSTA through SCORE.

Alternatives Considered

The Board may choose not to approve this recommendation, in which Metrolink would then lead all aspects of the Project. This is not recommended as the Authority and OCTA have concurred on the Project delivery and roles and responsibilities of each agency in the PMP. Further, OCTA has started the procurement process for the preliminary design and environmental phase and there would be further delays if this is not approved.

Next Steps

Upon Board approval, the Cooperative Agreement will be executed by both parties.

Prepared by: Joe McNeely, Principal Engineer, Standards and Design
Elizabeth Lun, Acting Assistant Director, Design/SCORE

Approved by: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

Attachment(s)

[Attachment A - C-1-3425 Coop - SCRRRA & OCTA Irvine Station Improvements Draft](#)