



ITEM ID: 2025-173-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: July 18, 2025

MEETING DATE: July 25, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

SUBJECT: Cooperative Agreement No. C-10-3065 between Orange County Transportation Authority, City of Irvine and the Authority for the Marine Way Grade Separation and Borrego Channel Undercrossing

Issue

Approval is required to execute the Cooperative Agreement No. C-10-3065 between the Orange County Transportation Authority, City of Irvine and the Authority for the Marine Way Grade Separation and Borrego Channel Undercrossing.

Recommendation

Contracts, Operations, Maintenance, and Safety Committee recommended (4-0) that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute the Cooperative Agreement No. C-10-3065 between the Orange County Transportation Authority, City of Irvine and the Authority in an amount of \$8,751,380 for the Marine Way Grade Separation and Borrego Channel Undercrossing.

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 Marine Way Grade Separation and Borrego Channel Undercrossing Project will ensure that the construction beneath the Metrolink tracks will comply with the Authority's safe practices, standards, and criteria to maintain safe and reliable operation of the

railroad above.

Background

The City of Irvine wishes to construct the Marine Way Grade Separation and Borrego Channel Undercrossing Project to provide a new connection for vehicular traffic beneath the railroad, joining the Great Park neighborhoods and surrounding developments to the south with the existing junction of Marine Way and Barranca Pkwy to the north, providing greater accessibility and improved traffic flow throughout the area.

The proposed Grade Separation will include four (4) travel lanes, a median, a bike lane, and a sidewalk crossing beneath the railroad tracks of the Orange Subdivision at MP 185.3 in the City of Irvine. The adjacent Borrego Channel will also need to be relocated approximately 900 feet to the east of its existing location to accommodate the new Marine Way Grade separation. Two precast concrete box structures will be constructed adjacent to the crossing location and physically jacked beneath the railroad during two separate weekend absolute work windows while all service is suspended. One box will then facilitate Marine Way with the second box containing the diverted Borrego channel.

Discussion

Cooperative Agreement No. C-10-3065 outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties and will provide \$8,751,380 of City funding for the Authority construction support services that will include project management, coordination, SCRRA signal construction, oversight, and provision of railroad operational protection.

Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2025 and take approximately 24 months. Upon completion of the Marine Way Grade Separation/Borrego Channel Undercrossing, the City of Irvine and Orange County Flood Control will be responsible for the maintenance of the Marine Way underpass structure and Borrego channel boxes respectively and all associated appurtenances (e.g., lighting, signage, pedestrian railings, roadway, and drainage). The Authority will retain responsibility for the maintenance of the railroad right-of-way, railroad roadbed, track, signal, and appurtenances (e.g., signal systems, switch machines, and right-of-way fencing and drainage) needed for operational safety.

The Agreement funding deposit mechanism ensures that SCRRA stays cash positive throughout the project by requiring the City to make an initial deposit of \$5.95 million, which is 68% of the total estimated cost of the Railroad Work. Once the Authority has expended 80% of this deposit, the Authority and the City will negotiate the funding required to complete the Authority's scope and the City will deposit the negotiated funding to completion.

The Marine Way Grade Separation/Borrego Channel Undercrossing is funded through Communities Facilities District (CFD) No. 2013-3 (Great Park) Funding.

On November 26, 2024, the City of Irvine Council approved an action item to authorize the City Manager to enter into future construction agreements related to the Marine Way Undercrossing Project.

