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Long Beach, California

R-25

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November 3, 2009

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HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and all other documents and amendments related thereto, in order to provide certain traffic mitigation measures in East Long Beach related to the Orange County Transportation Authority's West County Connectors Project that is designed to make capacity and operational improvements on the San Diego Freeway (I-405) that will link High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes with those on the Garden Grove Freeway (SR-22) and the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605) to create a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) connection amongst the three freeways.

DISCUSSION

This matter was the subject of discussion at a closed session conducted by the City Council on October 13, 2009.

The OCTA's West County Connectors project will provide new direct connect high occupancy vehicle lanes via freeway widening and new elevated structures on the Garden Grove Freeway (SR-22) connecting with those on the San Diego Freeway (I-405) and the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605). Improvements also include the reconstruction of the northbound I-405 to westbound 7th Street overcrossing, the Valley View Street overcrossing and Seal Beach Boulevard overcrossing. Construction of this project is being managed by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) with oversight by Caltrans. Construction is funded primarily by federal dollars and is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2010 and extend until the winter of 2013.

Of particular concern are the access and traffic impacts the West County Connectors project will have on the eastern portion of Long Beach. The largest impact is expected to occur during the removal and reconstruction of the northbound I-405 connector to 7th Street, which will result in the loss of access for approximately one year. That connector currently carries approximately 30,000 vehicles a day into Long Beach. During the construction phase of this Project, traffic is expected to be diverted from the freeway and the connector route to Studebaker Road, Atherton, Bellflower, Spring and Palo Verde Streets. In order to insure adequate traffic mitigation during the construction period, staff has been negotiating with OCTA for OCTA to provide certain traffic improvements that are

expected to lessen the anticipated construction impacts. As a result of the negotiations, OCTA has agreed to provide the following traffic mitigation measures:

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|----|---|---------------------|
| 1. | OCTA will provide funding for expected City staff time during the construction period. | \$ 360,000 |
| 2. | OCTA will provide funding for pavement restoration on detour routes. | \$ 250,000 |
| 3. | OCTA will add a lane to south I-405 & south I-605 to 7th Street connector. | (OCTA to construct) |
| 4. | OCTA will provide funding for Studebaker Road traffic enhancements. | \$ 600,000 |
| 5. | OCTA will provide funding for 2nd Street and Studebaker Road intersection enhancements. | 100,000 |
| 6. | OCTA will provide funding for Palo Verde Avenue traffic enhancements. | <u>\$ 200,000</u> |
| | Total: | \$1,510,000 |

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested on November 3, 2009, in order to finalize and execute the cooperative agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the general fund because OCTA will either provide funding or complete required construction activities itself.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney

By 
MICHAEL J. MAIS
Assistant City Attorney