





# Memorandum

**Date:** 10.13.15 **RE:** Finance Committee  
October 20, 2015

**To:** Finance Committee: Commissioners Avalos (Chair), Mar (Vice Chair), Campos, Cohen, Kim and Wiener (Ex Officio)

**From:** Eric Cordoba – Deputy Director for Capital Projects 

**Through:** Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

**Subject:** **ACTION** – Recommend Executing Cooperative Agreement No. 04-2582 with the California Department of Transportation for the I-280 Interchange Modifications at Balboa Park in a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000, and Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate Agreement Payment Terms and Non-Material Agreement Terms and Conditions

## Summary

The Transportation Authority is seeking project approval from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and environmental clearance for the realignment of the southbound I-280 off-ramp to Ocean Avenue as part of the I-280 Interchange Modifications at Balboa Park Project. In order to construct the off-ramp realignment, Cooperative Agreement No. 04-2582 must be executed with Caltrans. Caltrans has requested reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for work associated with this cooperative agreement. The overall project budget for this phase is \$750,000 from a Prop K appropriation approved in February 2015, through Resolution 15-41.

## BACKGROUND

In June 2014, through Resolution 14-86, the Transportation Authority Board unanimously approved the Balboa Park Station Area Circulation Study Final Report. This study identified a recommended alternative involving three project elements aimed at re-configuring the I-280 Geneva and Ocean Avenue freeway ramps within the next ten years to reduce the negative impacts on the local community resulting from automobiles accessing the regional road network; enhance safety, accessibility, and convenience for pedestrians and bicyclists; support efficient, reliable bus and light rail operations; and minimize impacts to traffic going to or coming from I-280. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) approval is required for implementation of any modifications to the interchange.

This phase of work will advance design of the southbound I-280 off-ramp to Ocean Avenue realignment to the 30% level; produce the Project Study Report/Project Report (PSR/PR) documentation for the southbound I-280 off-ramp to Ocean Avenue, required by Caltrans for projects that affect highways within its jurisdiction; and prepare required Environmental Documentation (California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)) and updated capital costs for the southbound I-280 off-ramp to Ocean Avenue. The overall project budget for this phase is \$750,000 from a Prop K appropriation approved in February 2015, through Resolution 15-41. Our initial schedule anticipates completion of the project development phase, including environmental review and a signed PSR/PR by all parties, by July 2016.

## **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend the execution of a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the project development phase of the Southbound I-280 Off-Ramp to Ocean Avenue Realignment Project, part of the I-280 interchange modifications at Balboa Park.

On May 15, 2015, Caltrans determined that there was significant justification to recognize the Transportation Authority as the lead agency under CEQA. Caltrans will be NEPA lead agency. On July 20, 2015, Caltrans approved our request to prepare a combined PSR/PR as the required Project Initiation Document (PID), a major step in expediting the project approval process.

Cooperative Agreement No. 04-2582 defines the responsibilities for both the Transportation Authority and Caltrans for project development work required for the project. Government Code section 65086.5 authorized Caltrans to review and approve PIDs prepared by local agencies as reimbursed work. Caltrans responsibilities include review and approval of the PSR/PR prepared by the Transportation Authority, provision of relevant Caltrans proprietary data and maps for the project area to the Transportation Authority, participation in project development team meetings, and provision of independent quality insurance of the work performed by the Transportation Authority and its consultants. In addition, Caltrans will perform quality control/quality assurance program process reviews for environmental documentation. The culmination of this phase of work will be approved environmental clearance under both CEQA and NEPA, and Caltrans project approval allowing the project to proceed to final design and implementation, anticipated to be completed in July 2016.

The Transportation Authority is responsible for all project costs, including preparation of the PSR/PR and environmental documentation, and reimbursement to Caltrans. Caltrans staff have reviewed the project description and evaluated the expected level of effort. The cooperative agreement includes a reimbursement amount not to exceed \$150,000.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Recommend executing Cooperative Agreement No. 04-2582 with Caltrans for the I-280 interchange modifications at Balboa Park in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000, and authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate agreement payment terms and non-material agreement terms and conditions, as requested.
2. Recommend executing Cooperative Agreement No. 04-2582 with Caltrans for the I-280 interchange modifications at Balboa Park in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000, and authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate agreement payment terms and non-material agreement terms and conditions, with modifications.
3. Defer action, pending additional information or further staff analysis.

## **CAC POSITION**

The CAC considered this item at its September 30, 2015 meeting and adopted a motion of support for the staff recommendation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

Budget for services identified in this agreement will be provided by funds from Prop K sales tax funds appropriated through Resolution 15-41 and were included in the Transportation Authority's adopted Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommend executing Cooperative Agreement No. 04-2582 with Caltrans for the I-280 interchange modifications at Balboa Park in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000, and authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate agreement payment terms and non-material agreement terms and conditions.