



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 19, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: **NB-1**

SUBJECT: I-405 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – AESTHETICS PLAN

DATE: JANUARY 6, 2016

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT – TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: ERNESTO MUNOZ, PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RAJA SETHURAMAN, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
MANAGER – (714) 754-5032**

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide input on the I-405 Improvement Project Aesthetics Plan for areas within the City Limits.

BACKGROUND:

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in cooperation with the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is implementing improvements to the I-405 Freeway between the SR-73 and I-605 Freeways. The project includes the addition of one (1) mixed-flow lane and one (1) express lane, and the conversion of the existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane to an express lane. OCTA, over the past year, has been working with Caltrans and the corridor agencies on various elements of the project, including the Project Aesthetics and Landscape Master (PALM) Plan.

ANALYSIS:

OCTA is currently soliciting bids from several design-build contractors for the implementation of this project. In order to obtain these bids, OCTA's consultants have been preparing preliminary design plans. In the City of Costa Mesa, major elements of the project include the direct connector ramps between the SR-73 and I-405 Freeways, the reconstruction of the Fairview Bridge, and soundwalls.

One component of the design plans is the Project Aesthetics and Landscape Master (PALM) Plan. The PALM includes treatments proposed for bridges, retaining walls, and soundwalls throughout the corridor.

Bridges

The only bridge that will be affected by the I-405 Improvement Project in Costa Mesa is the Fairview Road Overcrossing. This bridge will be removed and reconstructed as part of the project. OCTA's team is proposing four (4) Community Identifier/Art Panel Monuments for this bridge. These will be located over the columns at both ends of the bridge. The freeway side of the monument will allow for the City logo to be placed. On the street side by the sidewalk, there is potential

for artwork to be displayed. Attachment 1 shows conceptually what this may look like. The artwork details can be developed by the City over the next year. The City will be responsible for maintenance of the City logo and artwork through a Maintenance Agreement with Caltrans.

Two (2) options for the fence on the bridge wall are proposed and are included in Attachment 2. The standard fence will be maintained by Caltrans. If the City selects the ornamental fence, the responsibility for its maintenance will be transferred to the City through a Maintenance Agreement. All corridor agency staff are recommending the standard fence.

Retaining Walls

The SR-73/I-405 connector will have large retaining wall structures. OCTA, in its prior projects, implemented decorative treatments on these large walls to highlight the area where they are installed. For example, in the I-405/I-605 West County Connector project in Seal Beach, the walls include a depiction of seals, kelp, etc. The proposed decorative treatment for the walls in Costa Mesa is shown in Attachment 3. The input provided by staff included consideration of Coast Live Oak and White-tailed Kite silhouettes as shown in the attachment.

Soundwalls

The project includes reconstruction of some soundwalls and construction of new soundwalls. New soundwalls will be constructed adjacent to Gisler Park and also on the north side of the I-405 Freeway next to Wimbledon Glen Apartments. The treatment proposed for the soundwalls are included in Attachment 4.

A presentation to the Cultural Arts Committee on the above treatments has been scheduled for January 14, 2016. Staff will provide an update on the recommendations by the Committee as part of the presentation on this item.

Staff requests City Council's direction for the I-405 Freeway aesthetic treatments for incorporation in the plans that will be used by design-build contractors. The overall project schedule is shown in Attachment 5. Construction is expected to start in early 2018.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council could direct OCTA to develop additional concepts for the above treatments. This may result in delays to the overall project schedule.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The construction of decorative treatments is included in the project budget. The maintenance responsibility of the community identifiers and the art panel monuments will be the City's responsibility. The City will include this as part of its maintenance and operations budget. It is anticipated that the City's responsibility will start following project completion in Year 2022.

LEGAL REVIEW:

A legal review is not required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

OCTA, in association with Caltrans and the corridor cities, is developing plans for the implementation of the I-405 Improvement Project. The project includes various aesthetic treatments on bridges, retaining walls, and soundwalls. Staff requests City Council's input on these treatments.

ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

RAJA SETHURAMAN
Transportation Services Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 1 - [Community Identifier/Art Panel on Bridges](#)
2 - [Fence Options](#)
3 - [Decorative Treatments on Retaining Walls](#)
4 - [Soundwall Treatments](#)
5 - [Project Schedule](#)

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