



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE

September 12, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

78 September 12, 2023

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**TRANSPORTATION CORE SERVICE AREA  
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS  
ON ROSEMEAD BOULEVARD AT STATE ROUTE 60  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Public Works is seeking Board approval to authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to execute a cooperative agreement and amendments to the agreement between the Los Angeles County and Caltrans. The agreement provides for Caltrans to prepare and deliver a Project Initiation Document to implement a proposed diverging diamond interchange along Rosemead Boulevard at State Route 60 in the unincorporated community of Whittier Narrows.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record of the project.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to enter into a cooperative agreement and amendments to the agreement with the State of California through its Department of Transportation, whereby the State will prepare and deliver a Project Initiation Document to implement a diverging diamond interchange along Rosemead Boulevard over State Route 60 for an amount not to exceed \$650,000.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will find that they are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and authorize the Director to execute a cooperative agreement between the County and Caltrans under which Caltrans will develop a Project Initiation Document (PID) to implement a diverging diamond interchange along Rosemead Boulevard at State Route 60 (SR 60) for an amount not to exceed \$650,000. Preparation of the PID for improvements on Rosemead Boulevard at SR 60 is part of the County's efforts to improve pedestrian and bicyclist access along the Rosemead Boulevard corridor.

## **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: Strategy II.2, Support the Wellness of our Communities and Objective II.2.2, Expand Access to Recreational and Cultural Opportunities and Objective II.2.4, Promote Active and Healthy Lifestyles. These actions will lead to improvements to the quality of life for its residents by providing pedestrian and bicycle access to nearby recreational areas.

## **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

Caltrans will develop a PID to implement a diverging diamond interchange along Rosemead Boulevard at SR 60 for an estimated cost of \$500,000 plus \$150,000 in contingency for a total amount of \$650,000. Funding is included in the First Supervisorial District's Transportation Improvement Program in the Proposition C Local Return Fund (CN9 – Services and Supplies) Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget. Funding for future years will be requested through the annual budget process.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

In October 2015 the County was awarded grant funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 from Caltrans Active Transportation Program for the Rosemead Boulevard Complete Streets Improvements Phase 1 project to develop a scoping document for pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit access improvements along Rosemead Boulevard from Rush Street to Gallatin Road.

The portion of Rosemead Boulevard was a State highway at the time and efforts to relinquish the roadway from the State to the County were already underway. Senate Bill 461 was signed into law in October 2015 which provided for the relinquishment.

In May 2018 the County entered into an agreement with Caltrans to accept the relinquishment of the portion of Rosemead Boulevard. The relinquishment was completed in July 2018 which made the portion of Rosemead Boulevard a County-owned and maintained roadway.

Although the roadway is a County-owned and maintain roadway, the portion over SR 60 is within Caltrans jurisdiction. The project requires the County to enter into cooperative agreements with Caltrans for implementing the improvements within Caltrans jurisdiction at various stages of the project. The first cooperative agreement is to develop a PID.

Under the terms of the proposed cooperative agreement Caltrans will prepare and develop a PID to implement a diverging diamond interchange along Rosemead Boulevard at SR 60. The County is

agreeing to fund the preparation and development of the PID for an estimated cost of \$500,000. The County is to deposit with Caltrans the amount of \$100,000 prior to performing work on this project. Thereafter, the County will reimburse Caltrans for actual costs performed under the agreement. Public Works is requesting authority to cover the estimated \$500,000 plus an additional \$150,000 in contingency for a total amount of \$650,000.

Caltrans and the County are authorized to enter into cooperative agreements for improvements to the State Highway System in accordance with the California Streets and Highways Code, Sections 114 and 130, and California Government Code, Section 6586.5. The Director is identified as the Executive Officer for the purpose of the proposed agreement.

The agreement and amendments will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The recommended actions are not subject to CEQA because they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15378(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. This proposed cooperative agreement is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment and a government funding mechanism that does not involve any commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The cooperative agreement will allow Caltrans to generate the PID that includes potential project scope, cost, and cooperative elements. Pursuant to the cooperative agreement, Caltrans will conduct preliminary environmental analysis as part of the PID.

By approving this agreement, the County does not commit to or otherwise endorse, authorize, or approve any specific project. Any project developed from this agreement remains subject to the Board's sole discretion to approve. Authorization of any future project activities would occur only following compliance with CEQA and Public Works will return to the Board for consideration of the appropriate environmental documentation.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This action will result in no impact to current services or projects. The proposed cooperative agreement is of general County interest. It may ultimately result in a project that will improve travel conditions, increase safety, and enhance the mobility of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic in the area.

**CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works, Transportation Planning and Programs Division.

Respectfully submitted,



MARK PESTRELLA, PE  
Director

MP:MER:pr

c: Chief Executive Office (Chia-Ann Yen)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office