



STAFF REPORT

CITY of YORBA LINDA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

DATE: MARCH 1, 2022

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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SUBJECT: GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 2021-01 TO UPDATE AND AMEND THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT AND TO APPROVE AN ADDENDUM TO THE 2016 CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE GENERAL PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

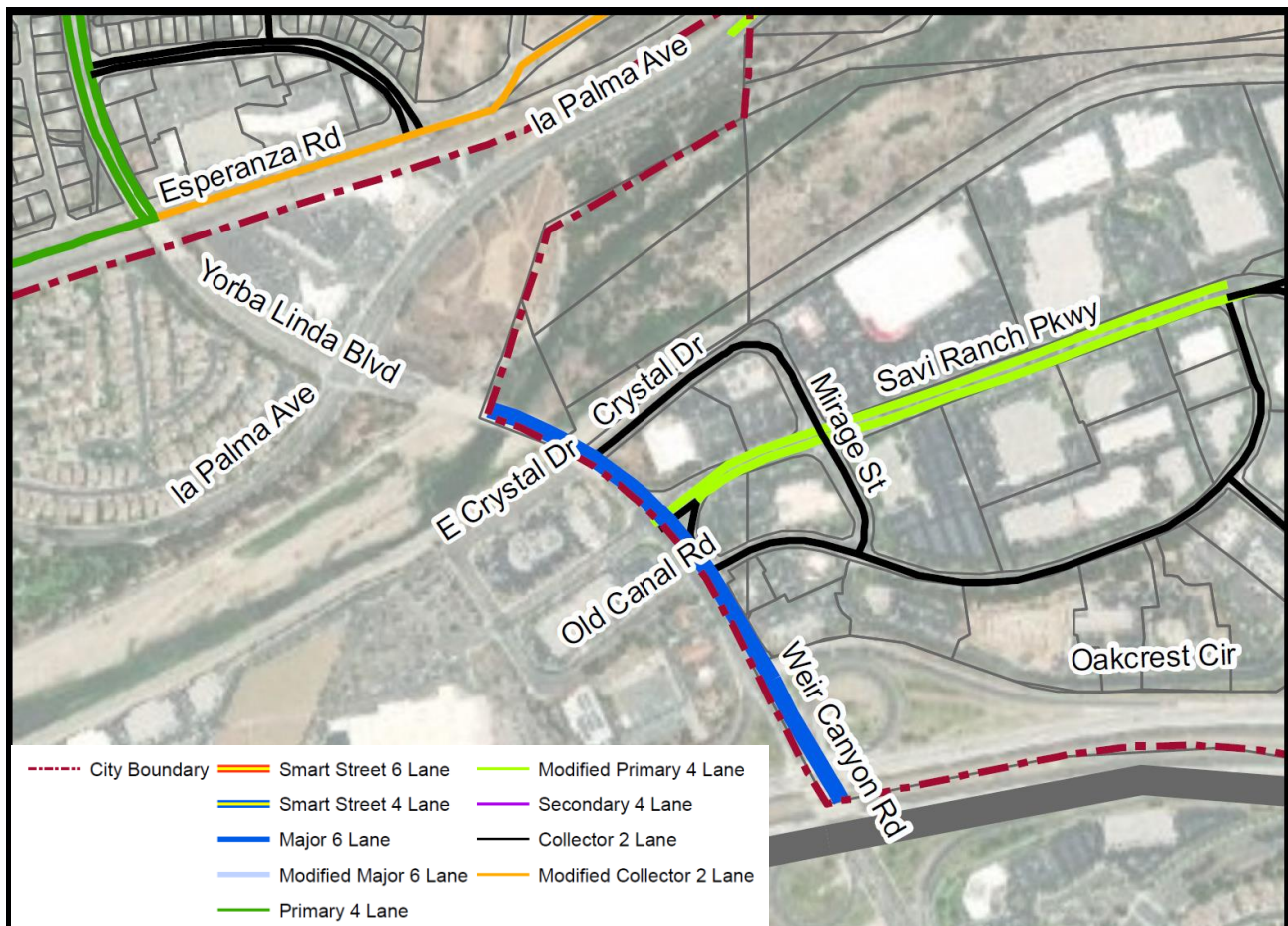
It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2022-5786 approving the Addendum to the 2016 Certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan and approve an amendment to the Circulation Element to modify the Circulation Element Map to reclassify a portion of Savi Ranch Parkway from Yorba Linda Boulevard to Old Canal Road, from a Collector (2 lane) to a Modified Primary (4 Lane, divided) and to depict the classification for a portion of Yorba Linda Boulevard between State Route 91 westbound off-ramp to the City boundary as an asymmetric Major (seven-lane, divided) Arterial, and a portion of Yorba Linda Boulevard/Weir Canyon Road between the State Route 91 westbound off-ramp and the State Route 91 eastbound on-ramp as a Major (six-lane, divided) Arterial. The proposed amendment is intended to conform the City's Circulation Element to the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) administered by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).

BACKGROUND

On July 12, 2021, OCTA Board conditionally approved a request from the cities of Yorba Linda and Anaheim to amend the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) to reclassify Savi Ranch Parkway and Yorba Linda Boulevard. These amendments are intended to facilitate planned circulation improvements within the surrounding vicinity of the intersection of Savi Ranch Parkway and Yorba Linda Boulevard/Weir Canyon. A summary of the request is shown below:

- Reclassify Yorba Linda Boulevard between La Palma Avenue and the State Route 91 westbound off-ramp from a Primary (four-lane, divided) arterial to an asymmetric Major (seven-lane, divided) Arterial;

- Reclassify Yorba Linda Boulevard/Weir Canyon Road between the State Route 91 westbound off-ramp and the State Route 91 eastbound on-ramp from a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial to a major (six-lane, divided) arterial;
- Add Savi Ranch Parkway between Pullman Street and Old Canal Road as a primary (four-lane, divided) arterial;
- Add Old Canal Road/Pullman Street as a divided collector (two-lane, divided).



The proposed MPAH amendments will become final, contingent upon the Orange County Transportation Authority receiving documentation confirming that each city has amended the General Plan accordingly and has complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA), has been jointly retained by the Cities of Yorba Linda and Anaheim to prepare an Addendum to the 2016 Certified Environmental Impact Report for the City of Yorba Linda General Plan and an Addendum to 2004 Certified Environmental Impact Report for the City of Anaheim General Plan for proposed revisions to the

respective cities' Circulation Elements to ensure consistency between the MPAH (as amended) and local General Plans.

It should be noted that the proposed improvements in the Savi Ranch area include roadway widenings on both Yorba Linda Boulevard and Savi Ranch Parkway which are included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as Projects SI211001 and SI211002 respectively. In February 2022, both Yorba Linda and Anaheim entered into a cooperative agreement for the Yorba Linda Boulevard project.

Below is the current funding status:

- The funding for the Yorba Linda Boulevard Widening Final Design has been secured through OCTA Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program's (CTFP) Project O.
- Staff submitted a grant application in October 2021 for the CTFP funds to offset funding for Savi Ranch Parkway Widening Final Design. If selected, MPAH amendments final approval must be obtained from OCTA prior to award of funding, which is anticipated in Spring 2022.

DISCUSSION

The City is currently proposing amendments to the 2016 Circulation Element to update the roadway classification for Savi Ranch Parkway, between Yorba Linda Boulevard and Old Canal Road, to a Primary Arterial from the current designation of a Collector (2 Lane) and provide consistency with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH).

Old Canal Road has been added to the MPAH, as conditionally approved; however, this roadway is currently classified as a Divided Collector within the City's Circulation Element and no Circulation Element update is needed.

The City is also proposing a technical amendment to the Circulation Element to depict Yorba Linda Boulevard north of the State Route 91 to the City boundary as a Major Arterial, as this portion of Yorba Linda Boulevard was previously not included and the roadway is partially within the City's jurisdiction, and partially within the City of Anaheim's jurisdiction. This is consistent with the MPAH and with the City of Anaheim's Circulation Element. The City's Circulation Element defines a Major Arterial as roadways that typically consist of three through lanes in each direction, with one or two left-turn lanes and a dedicated right-turn lane at intersections. Yorba Linda Boulevard between La Palma Avenue and the SR-91 westbound off-ramp is currently built out with two through lanes, one shared through/right-turn lane, a dedicated right-turn lane, and two left turn lanes. As described above, the City has also approved the Yorba Linda Boulevard Widening Project, which would convert the shared through/right-turn lane to a through-only and provide a second dedicated right-turn lane at the La Palma Avenue intersection, resulting in an asymmetrical seven-lane configuration. As this asymmetrical configuration would not provide an additional through-lane altering the capacity of the roadway, this segment of Yorba Linda Boulevard is

consistent with the City's designation of Major Arterial. While the six-lane configuration is described as the "typical" configuration of a Major Arterial, this segment of Yorba Linda Boulevard would also be consistent with this classification as a seven-lane, divided roadway that connects to a freeway (SR-91), in both its current and planned configurations. The planned configuration of Yorba Linda Blvd. would also include a bike lane and the bikeways Exhibit CR-4 from the Circulation Element will also be updated accordingly. The segment of Yorba Linda Boulevard/Weir Canyon Road between the State Route 91 westbound off-ramp and the State Route 91 eastbound on-ramp would be classified as a Major (six-lane, divided) Arterial per the current configuration of the roadway.

The proposed reclassification of Savi Ranch Parkway would not allow for any increase in capacity of the roadway. As such, it would not require major revisions of the 2016 Certified FEIR or result in new significant environmental effects, and preparation of an Addendum is the appropriate CEQA documentation. Furthermore, the addition of this segment of Yorba Linda Boulevard is a ministerial action by the City and therefore, CEQA does not apply.

An Addendum (Attachment 1) to the City of Yorba Linda's 2016 Certified Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City of Yorba Linda General Plan Update (Approved Project) has been prepared by LSA to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed updates to the General Plan Circulation Element compared to the impacts identified in the 2016 Certified Final EIR for the Approved Project. It has been determined that a Subsequent EIR pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 will not be required as no new significant environmental impacts would result from implementation of the proposed project.

Traffic Commission and Planning Commission Review

On December 16, 2021, the Traffic Commission reviewed and approved the draft Circulation Element update and the proposed Addendum to the 2016 EIR. The Planning Commission reviewed General Plan Amendment 2021-01 on January 16, 2022. Although General Plan amendments are a public hearing matter, no public comments were received regarding proposed General Plan Amendment 2021-01. The Planning Commission unanimously supported the requested amendment and adopted Resolution No. 5486 recommending approval to the City Council. It should be noted that the reclassifications along Yorba Linda Boulevard were inadvertently left out of the Planning Commission Resolution; however, these were discussed during the public hearing and, therefore, are technical changes that do not require reconsideration by the Planning Commission. The public hearing for this item was initially included on the agenda for the February 15, 2022, Council meeting; however, it was continued to the March 1, 2022 meeting while minor items were being finalized.

Staff has attached the December 16, 2021, Traffic Commission staff report and January 12, 2022 Planning Commission staff report for a detailed description of the proposed project, and Resolution No. 2022-5786 for the City Council's reference.

FISCAL IMPACT

Since the proposed General Plan amendment is necessary to ensure eligibility for funding assistance programs (including Measure M) for roadway maintenance and improvement projects, the proposed amendment supports the City Council's goal of ensuring the short term and long-term financial security of the City by potentially reducing the cost burden associated with maintaining these roadway sections. Sufficient funding for LSA's contractual costs associated with the Certified Environmental Impact Report addendum have been budgeted in Project SI221001 (Account No. 4010050-461620).

ALTERNATIVES

If the City Council were to deny General Plan Amendment 2021-01, the current designation of the subject segment of Savi Ranch Parkway in the 2016 General Plan Circulation Element would remain in place. As such, the City would not be eligible to receive funding for maintenance and proposed widening of this roadway through Measure M and other County roadway funding assistance programs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Addendum to the 2016 Certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Circulation Element Update
 2. Traffic Commission Staff Report from December 16, 2021, Traffic Commission meeting
 3. Planning Commission Staff Report from January 12, 2022, Planning Commission meeting
 4. Planning Commission Resolution No. 5486
 5. Updated 2016 General Plan Circulation Element
 6. Resolution No. 2022-5786
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