



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY of YORBA LINDA

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### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** JANUARY 12, 2022

**TO:** HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

**FROM:** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**BY:** NATE FARNSWORTH, PLANNING MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 2021-01 – AN AMENDMENT TO THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN AND APPROVAL OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE 2016 CERTIFIED GENERAL PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

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### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Planning Commission recommend that the City Council approve the draft Addendum to the 2016 Certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Circulation Element Update and approve an amendment to the Circulation Element.

### 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).

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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.

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 in the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the proposed improvements in the Savi Ranch area include roadway widenings on both Yorba Linda Boulevard and Savi Ranch Parkway. The City of Anaheim is a partner on this 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.

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- Staff has submitted a grant application in October 2021 for the CTFP funds to help pay for the 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.

On December 16, 2021, the Traffic Commission reviewed the draft Circulation Element update and the proposed Addendum to the 2016 EIR. The Traffic Commission's comments have been incorporated into the documents being considered by the Planning Commission.

## **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.

Yorba Linda Boulevard between La Palma Avenue and the State Route 91 westbound off-ramp is located either entirely or partially within the City of Anaheim's jurisdiction for this segment of the roadway. This segment of Yorba Linda Boulevard is not currently identified in the City's Circulation Element and will not be included in Yorba Linda's Circulation Element Update.

Yorba Linda Boulevard/Weir Canyon Road between the State Route 91 westbound off-ramp and the State Route 91 eastbound on-ramp is also partially within the City of Anaheim's jurisdiction and will not be included in Yorba Linda's Circulation Element Update.

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

A draft 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 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

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as no new significant environmental impacts would result from implementation of the proposed project.

The Planning Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution Recommending Approval of General Plan Amendment 2021-01 and the Addendum to the EIR
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