



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY of YORBA LINDA

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### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** MAY 17, 2022

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** JAMIE LAI, P.E., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS / CITY ENGINEER  
**PREPARED BY:** REGINA HU, P.E., SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF NON-EXCLUSIVE BIKEWAY EASEMENT TO COUNTY OF ORANGE FOR OC LOOP SEGMENT D IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council grant a permanent, non-exclusive bikeway/multi-use trail easement to the County of Orange for the OC Loop Segment D Improvement Project located along Bastanchury Road from the El Cajon Trail south to the Carbon Canyon Channel north (see Attachment 1 Vicinity Map).

### **BACKGROUND**

County of Orange Public Works is proposing an improvement project to the Orange County (OC) Loop Segment D (El Cajon Bikeway) multi-use trail. The OC Loop is a planned alternative transportation corridor comprising 66 miles of regional non-motorized recreational/commuter cycling and pedestrian routes that provide seamless connections and an opportunity for people to bike, walk, and connect to some of California's beaches and inland destinations. Approximately 88% of the OC Loop is already completed and is used by hundreds of thousands of people each year. These existing recreational/commuter cycling, and pedestrian segments of the OC Loop include the Santa Ana River Bikeway, the Coastal Bikeway, and several miles of the Coyote Creek Bikeway and San Gabriel River Bikeway.

The project proposes to close an existing gap in the OC Loop by connecting the existing El Cajon Trail Class I bikeway from the intersection of Bastanchury Road and extending it north along the Carbon Canyon Channel located at the western boundary of the City. The project is approximately 0.67 miles long and includes a combination of bikeways and multi-use trails that traverse the Cities of Yorba Linda, Placentia, and Brea. Within the City of Yorba Linda, improvements proposed for this gap segment include minor reconfiguration and improvements to the El Cajon Trail abutting Bastanchury Road, constructing a tunnel beneath Bastanchury Road, and constructing a Class I Bike trail along the west side of the Carbon Canyon Channel. Please see Attachment 1 - Vicinity Map detailing the proposed improvements and right-of-way needs within each jurisdiction. The proposed improvements would accommodate a new Class I Bike trail connecting the El Cajon Trail to Imperial Highway via the Carbon Canyon Channel easement.

The City signed a cooperative agreement with the County of Orange on March 10, 2020, as partners of the Project (see Attachment 4). The Segment D project design is now approximately 95% complete and is anticipated to be finalized by the fall of 2022. Construction is estimated to begin as early as 2023 and is expected to last for about one year. The County of Orange has budgeted approximately \$8 million for the project, which is largely funded through a Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program (BCIP) grant.

## **DISCUSSION**

Permanent easements and temporary construction easements are required for the OC Loop Segment D project from private properties and local public agencies. The County of Orange has requested the City grant a permanent non-exclusive bikeway/multi-use trail easement designated as TR07D-113 (see Attachments 2 and 3 for exact location).

On May 13, 2020, Planning Commission found the project and proposed easement for multi-uses to be in conformance with the Yorba Linda General Plan, as required by State Government Code Section No. 65402. The Yorba Linda General Plan includes policy guidance in relation to provision of public streets, parks, and other public facilities. The General Plan allows for minor alterations of existing public and private structures and facilities, including existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities.

Within the easement, the County of Orange proposes a paved spur connection to the existing El Cajon Trail at Bastanchury Road. Other improvements include drainage improvements, minor retaining wall structures, landscape restoration, and equestrian fencing. County of Orange will maintain such improvements within the easement limits. Within the Segment D project, there are 5 private properties that lie within the city limits of Yorba Linda. Over the past several months The County of Orange has been pursuing the requisite easements needed in order to implement necessary project improvements. It should be noted that while the majority of the easements have been garnered, there are instances where the County has determined eminent domain acquisitions may be required to procure the remaining easements.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no direct fiscal impact to the City. The County of Orange will maintain the bikeway and associated fencing and other improvements within the easement.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Do not accept staff recommendation to grant the non-exclusive bikeway/multi-use trail easement to the County of Orange at the specified location. This alternative will interrupt the 66-mile OC Loop connection and discontinue the OC Loop Segment D at the El Cajon Trail entrance. County of Orange will be forced to redesign a connection at another location, potentially jeopardizing Active Transportation federal funding for the project.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Vicinity Map

Attachment 2 – Plat and Legal Description for Parcel TR07D-113

Attachment 3 – Grant Deed Easement

Attachment 4 – Approved Cooperative Agreement between County of Orange and City

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