



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: August 17, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Department, 568-3010
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064

SUBJECT: Request for Local Advance Construction Authorization for Highway Bridge Program: Foothill Road Low Water Crossing Replacement (Bridge No. 51C-0381) County Project 862339, 1st Supervisorial District; and Adopt a Resolution to Designate the Public Works Director, Or His Designee to Enter Into Future Requests for Local Advance Construction Authorizations; All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Public Works Director, or designee, to execute the attached Request for Local Advance Construction Authorization with the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the Foothill Road Low Water Crossing Replacement Project (Bridge No. 51C-0381) Over the Cuyama River (Project No. 862339); and
- b) Adopt the attached Resolution to designate the Director of Public Works, or his designee, as an authorized Agent with authority to enter into future Requests for Local Advance Construction Authorizations for projects under \$5 million with Caltrans; and
- c) Determine the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) because it consists of organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a Request for Local Advance Construction Authorization with Caltrans for the Foothill Road Low Water (LWC) Crossing Replacement Project (Bridge No. 51C-0381) over the Cuyama River (Attachment A-Project No. 862339) and to enter into future Requests for Local Advance Construction Authorizations for projects under \$5 million (Attachment B) in accordance with the Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual (LAPM) by adopting a resolution (Attachment C) designating the Director of Public Works, or his designee, as an authorized Agent for the Board.

Caltrans Request for Local Advance Construction Authorization Procedure

Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual (LAPM) establishes procedures for programming Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funded projects. Under the LAPM local advance construction procedures, the local agency is required to submit a Request for Local Advance Construction Authorizations (AC) which states the agency will use its own funds to perform work eligible for future federal reimbursement. The local agency must have sufficient local funds to pay for all project costs until such time as federal funds become available. Federal funds are not guaranteed until that time. Federal funding for construction is committed to HBP projects by programming the project in the Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP). An FTIP amendment may be required when the Advance Construction Authorization is converted to an approved appropriation of federal funds. Public Works will continue to coordinate with Caltrans and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to program funds from the Federal HBP into the FTIP in order to get reimbursed for the construction of the project.

Construction and Construction Engineering costs for the Foothill Road LWC Replacement Project is estimated at \$23.4 million which is anticipated to span over two years.

Typically, with the federal transportation law in place, California is guaranteed funding of the HBP program for the next four years, resulting in very little risk to the County for reimbursement of its expenses. However, the current federal transportation law was extended through September 30, 2021, with the intent of passing a longer term legislation prior to September 2021. The result is a slight increase in risk to the County. Advance Construction funds generally are converted to HBP Funds in the next fiscal year. Without these agreements many of the County's larger bridge projects would be at a standstill.

Entering into future Request for Local Advance Construction Authorization Procedure

Designating authority to the Director of Public Works, or his designee, as an authorized agent with authority to enter into future Requests for AC for projects under \$5 million with Caltrans saves processing time and helps streamline the funding process by eliminating the need to go to the Board of Supervisors for each separate Request for AC. The Auditor-Controller concurs with this delegation. This delegation would be revisited by the Board every five years.

Background:

Foothill Road LWC Replacement (Bridge No. 51C-0381) (Project No. 862339):

On December 13, 2016 your Board approved the Project, Adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration (16NGD-00000-00008), and authorized the Director of Public Works to advertise for bids and to proceed with right-of-way negotiations. The right-of-way phase of the project is now completed and the plans and

specifications are being finalized. The project is expected to be ready to advertise for construction bids in the fall of 2021 with an anticipated first working day in the spring of 2022.

Currently, Foothill Road is a rural, two-lane roadway with graded unpaved shoulders. Where Foothill Road crosses the Cuyama River, the roadway, or LWC is roughly 20 feet wide and is bounded by the Cuyama River on each side. During seasonal rain events, the LWC may overtop the roadway and create nuisance flows. At times of larger, less frequent rain events, the depth of flow at the crossing increases, which limits vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian access and periodically renders the road impassable. At these times, the road is closed and a 17-mile detour goes into effect.

The purpose of the project is to improve the crossing of the Cuyama River under all weather conditions for residents and commercial traffic and to improve emergency access during rainy periods. Replacement of the existing LWC at the Cuyama River with an all-season structure would provide uninterrupted access and improved safety year round.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Partially

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
Highway Bridge Program - Foothill Rd (100.00%)	\$ 23,375,300.00
Total	\$ 23,375,300.00

Fiscal Year	Expenditure	Temporary Funding
21/22	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 1,625,000 Road Fund
22/23	10,150,000	4,900,000 General Fund or Other Financing Source
23/24	10,160,000	9,290,000 General Fund or Other Financing Source
24/25	440,300	(15,815,000) Loan Repayment
	<u>\$ 23,375,300</u>	-

While this project is 100% funded with HBP funds, reimbursement can take two years depending on the demands of the program. As such, the total project cost will temporarily exceed available balances in the Road Funds. The Department will need to seek temporary cashflow funding from the General Fund, similar to the advance construction temporary loan for the Floradale Bridge project that was initiated in FY 2020-21.

- For FY 21/22, \$2.6M is projected to be spent of which \$1.6M will be temporarily covered with Road Funds. The remainder is anticipated to be covered with partial HBP conversion.
- For FY 22/23, \$10.2M is projected to be spent on bridge construction of which \$4.9M of funds will need to be temporarily funded through the General Fund. The \$4.9M in cashflow funds is anticipated to be available in the General Fund from the repayment of the Floradale Bridge project advance construction loan. The remainder is anticipated to be covered with partial HBP conversion.

- For FY 23/24, an additional \$9.3M in temporary cashflow need from the General Fund is anticipated resulting in a total cash loan of \$14.2M from the General Fund for this project. A fund balance reserve for this purpose would need to be established in the General Fund and discretionary sources temporarily set aside specifically for the loan. Other alternative financing sources are being researched in lieu of the General Fund.
- For FY 24/25, federal funding would be received to repay the General Fund and Road Fund a total of \$15.8M in temporary cashflow funding.

The Department will work closely with the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office and outside financial advisors to analyze temporary cashflow financing options, including any budgetary impacts and return to your board with funding recommendations in February 2022 at the time of contract award.

Narrative:

Approval of the AC would allow the County to continue to coordinate with Caltrans and Santa Barbara County Association of Government to program funds from the Federal HBP in order to construct the project. The project is anticipated to be 100% funded through the HBP program.

Special Instructions:

Please provide a certified, stamped Minute Order and copies of the executed Resolution to:
Gail Ocheltree, Public Works Transportation, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, ext. 83094

Attachments:

Attachment A: Request for Local Advance Construction Authorization (Project No. 862339)
Attachment B: Requests for Local Advance Construction Authorizations
Attachment C: Resolution

Authored by:

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