



**THE PORT  
OF LOS ANGELES**

Executive Director's  
Report to the  
Board of Harbor Commissioners

**DATE: MARCH 12, 2014**

**FROM: ENGINEERING**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMENDMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR THE 1) SOUTH WILMINGTON GRADE SEPARATION, AND 2) JOHN S. GIBSON BOULEVARD/I-110 FREEWAY ACCESS RAMP IMPROVEMENTS & SR-47/I-110 NORTHBOUND CONNECTOR WIDENING PROJECTS**

**SUMMARY:**

The proposed action is approval of Amendments to Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for the South Wilmington Grand Separation and the John S. Gibson /I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening Projects. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority requires that the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) execute Memorandum of Understanding Amendments in order to maintain awarded grants and seek reimbursement for the South Wilmington Grade Separation and the John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening Projects. These Amendments extend grant fund lapse dates and add a new communication provision.

The Harbor Department has been awarded the following grants: Project 1 – South Wilmington Grade Separation in the amount of \$19,288,000; and Project 2 – John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening in the amount of \$7,420,000.

Staff recommends amending the existing MOU for each project as required to maintain funding availability.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

1. Authorize the Executive Director and the Board Secretary to execute and attest to said Amendment No. 2 to the MOU for the South Wilmington Grade Separation on behalf of the Board, and forward Amendments to Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for full execution and receive and file fully executed Amendments from LACMTA;

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2. Authorize the Executive Director and the Board Secretary to execute and attest to said Amendment No. 1 to the MOU for the John S. Gibson Boulevard Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening on behalf of the Board, and forward Amendments to LACMTA for full execution and receive and file fully executed Amendments from LACMTA;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to future amendments to these MOUs to account for revised project schedules and reduced project costs, for and on behalf of the Board; subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality; and
4. Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_.

**DISCUSSION:**

Background & Context - The following Harbor Department projects have been awarded grant funding by LACMTA:

No.	Project Name	Proposed LACMTA Grant Amount	Other Grants Amount	Harbor Dept. Share for Construction	Total Construction Cost
1	South Wilmington Grade Separation	\$19,288,000	\$22,927,000*	\$16,074,000 (27.6%)	\$58,289,000
2	John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening	\$7,420,000	\$18,299,600**	\$3,924,850 (13.2%)	\$29,644,450
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,708,000</b>	<b>\$41,226,600</b>	<b>\$19,998,850</b>	<b>\$87,933,450</b>

\* Other grants provided by FHWA SAFETEA-LU and State of California Trade Corridor Improvement Fund

\*\* Other grants provided by State of California Trade Corridor Improvement Fund

LACMTA Grant Funding: The LACMTA Call for Projects is a competitive grant program that provides funding to projects that address transportation issues in the Los Angeles region. The Harbor Department submitted Projects 1 and 2 for consideration under the Regional Surface Transportation Improvement (RSTI) category on January 26, 2007.

On September 27, 2007, the LACMTA awarded Proposition C (Prop. C) grant funding for Projects 1 and 2 under the RSTI category of the 2007 Call for Projects. On June 23, 2009, the Board approved an MOU with LACMTA regarding Project 1. On December 8, 2011, the Board approved an MOU with LACMTA regarding Project 2 and approved a First Amendment to the MOU for Project 1 extending the duration by 24 months from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2013. On July 25, 2013, the LACMTA Board acted to extend the lapsing date of funding for the two MOU amendments. In October 2013, LACMTA

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provided amendments for the two MOU's to address the lapsing dates of funds and to provide revised language regarding communications. From October 2013 to February 2014 the City Attorney reviewed the MOU's and sought clarification from LACMTA regarding the communications-related amendments. A Second Amendment is proposed for Project 1 to extend the lapsing date of funds to June 30, 2015, and to amend the existing MOU by deleting Part II, Paragraph 11 in its entirety and replacing it with revised language relating to the inclusion of LACMTA recognition as a funding contributor in communication materials related to Project 1. A First Amendment is proposed for Project 2 to extend the lapsing date of funds to June 30, 2014, and to amend the existing MOU by deleting Part II, Paragraph 11 in its entirety and replacing it with revised language relating to the inclusion of LACMTA recognition as a funding contributor in communication materials related to Project 2.

**Project 1 Description: South Wilmington Grade Separation** (Transmittal 1) will provide a grade separation to eliminate two existing at-grade crossings at Fries Avenue, minimize interruptions and delays in both vehicular and rail traffic on Fries Avenue and Avalon Boulevard, enhance mobility, reduce emergency response time to and from this portion of the harbor, provide more efficient movement of cargo, and improve access to Port of Los Angeles terminals and the Wilmington Waterfront.

**Project 2 Description: John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening** (Transmittal 2) will provide an additional lane from southbound SR-47 to northbound I-110 Freeway to increase operational efficiency and safety. The John S. Gibson Boulevard on-ramp and off-ramp will be modified to provide better access to and from the I-110 Freeway by improving the roadway geometry. The intersection at John S. Gibson will be improved to provide wider turns and improve traffic operations. This project will result in improved operations for port traffic utilizing these facilities.

These projects are in the construction phase. The Harbor Department has begun requesting reimbursement from LACMTA for Project 1 and will begin requesting reimbursement from LACMTA for Project 2 in the near future. Project 1 is expected to expend this grant funding by the proposed amendment date of June 30, 2015. Project 2 is not expected to expend this grant funding by the proposed amendment date of June 30, 2014. A future amendment to the Project 2 MOU will be prepared by LACMTA to further extend the lapsing date.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

The proposed action is approval of Amendments to MOUs with LACMTA for the South Wilmington Grade Separation, and John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening Project. The South Wilmington Grade Separation project is an activity that is specifically exempted from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by State Law

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(construction of a railroad grade separation project to eliminate an existing grade crossing per Section 21080.13 of PRC). The John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening Project was previously assessed and processed according to the requirements of CEQA in a joint Mitigated Negative Declaration/Finding of No Significant Impact (MND/FONSI) that was approved by the Board in April 2012. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that proposed MOU Amendments for the South Wilmington Grade Separation and the John S. Gibson project are exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(h) and Article II Section 2(i) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines, respectively.

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS:**

Approval of the proposed MOU Amendments will have no employment impact. The projects associated with the proposed MOU Amendments were evaluated to support 543 direct and 461 secondary one-year equivalent jobs for the five-county region at approval.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no change in the financial impact of these projects as a result of the Amendments. Acceptance of the proposed MOU Amendments memorializes the framework for the transfer of Projects 1 and 2 grant funds from LACMTA to the Harbor Department. The grants are on a reimbursement basis, requiring the Harbor Department to budget and subsequently expend the funds for the project. Construction funding for these projects will be requested in the FY 2014/2015 budget. The total projects cost is estimated at \$87,933,450 of which \$26,708,000 is reimbursable under the grants discussed herein, \$41,226,600 is reimbursable through other grant funding, leaving a total net cost to the Harbor Department of approximately \$19,998,850.

Upon completion of these projects, the responsible agency for ongoing operating and maintenance expenses associated with the completed projects will be the Harbor Department for Project 1 and Caltrans and the City of Los Angeles for Project 2. For Project 1, upon completion, the operating and maintenance cost is currently estimated at \$40,000 per year.

There is no direct revenue impact to the Harbor Department resulting from the proposed Board item. However, the infrastructure and roadway improvements are expected to benefit tenants and the Harbor Department by improving the flow of commerce in support of the Tidelands Trust Act of promoting commerce, navigation, and fishery.

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GRADE SEPARATION AND JOHN S. GIBSON


**CITY ATTORNEY:**

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the MOU Amendments as to form and legality.

**TRANSMITTALS:**


1. Amendment No. 2 MOU between the Harbor Department and the LACMTA for South Wilmington Grade Separation
2. Amendment No. 1 MOU between the Harbor Department and the LACMTA for John S. Gibson Boulevard/I-110 Freeway Access Ramp Improvements & SR-47/I-110 Northbound Connector Widening

FIS Approval:  (initials)  
CA Approval:  (initials)

  
ANTONIO V. GIOIELLO  
Chief Harbor Engineer

  
MICHAEL R. CHRISTENSEN, P.E.  
Deputy Executive Director

APPROVED:

  
GARY LEE MOORE, P.E.  
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