



**THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES**
Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: APRIL 1, 2021
FROM: ENGINEERING
**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF TRADE CORRIDOR
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (TCEP) BASELINE AGREEMENT FOR
THE STATE ROUTE 47/VINCENT THOMAS BRIDGE & FRONT
ST./HARBOR BLVD. INTERCHANGE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT
(LAHD) AND THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
(CTC)**

SUMMARY:

Staff requests the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) Baseline Agreement (BA) between City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (LAHD) and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to receive \$13,383,000 in Senate Bill 1 TCEP funds for the construction phase of the State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project (Project). Total Project costs are anticipated to be \$70,500,000. The Harbor Department is financially responsible for funding or securing matching funds of \$57,117,000, net of the proposed TCEP funds. In addition, staff is requesting the Board to consider and approve the Project, and authorize the Environmental Management Division (EMD) to file the Notice of Determination (NOD) for the Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Consider, as a Responsible Agency, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15096, the Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project which (a) has been completed by Caltrans as the CEQA Lead Agency in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines; and (b) was presented to the Board for review and the Board reviewed and considered the information contained in the IS/ND prior to approving the Project;
2. Find that, as a Responsible Agency, based on the information contained in this report and the IS/ND, that the State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project would not have a significant

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effect on the environment pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080 and State CEQA Guidelines § 15096;

3. Find that all information added to the Final IS/ND after the public review period, merely clarifies, amplifies, or makes insignificant modifications, and recirculation is not necessary;
4. Approve the State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project in consideration of the IS/ND, together with the comment letters received and the response to comments.
5. Authorize the Environmental Management Division to file the Notice of Determination for the subject Project with the Los Angeles County Clerk and State Clearinghouse;
6. Approve Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) Baseline Agreement (BA) between LAHD, CTC, and Caltrans to receive \$13,383,000 in TCEP funds for State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project;
7. Authorize the Executive Director to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to said agreement, for and on behalf of the Board;
8. Authorize the Executive Director to execute future Baseline Agreement Amendments to account for revised project schedules, and/or reduced project costs, for and on behalf of the Board, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality;
9. Authorize the Executive Director to execute future project specific Program Supplement Agreements, subject to approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, and;
10. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Background – On December 2, 2020, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded \$13,383,000 in Senate Bill 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funds for the Harbor Department's State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project. The awarded funds are for the construction phase of the project, only. To receive the TCEP funds, the LAHD must enter into a BA with the CTC.

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Once approved by the Board, LAHD will transmit the BA to the CTC for further processing and approval. The Board-approved BA is needed in advance of obtaining the formal allocation of the funds, which requires another future CTC approval, and is required before LAHD can advertise for construction. The BA sets forth the project scope, expected benefits, schedule, cost, and funding plan. If there are future changes to the project's schedule and/or cost, the BA will need to be amended prior to the allocation of funds. Thus, the Executive Director also seeks delegation of authority from the Board to execute subsequent amended agreements in the future to account for changes in schedule and project cost.

The table below summarizes the estimated total cost (including pre-construction costs) of the Project, and the corresponding sources of funds which comprise both Harbor Department and other grant source matches. The Goods Movement Division obtained all of the outside funds, \$64,948,000 (92%) for this project as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| State TCEP | \$ 13,383,000 |
| United States Department of Transportation | \$ 9,880,000 |
| Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority | \$ 41,225,000 |
| South Bay Cities Council of Governments | \$ 460,000 |
| Los Angeles Harbor Department | \$ 5,552,000 |
| Total Project Cost | \$ 70,500,000 |

The Project Programming Request (PPR) attachment to the BA provides annual cash flow and source of fund details. Following project approval by the Board of Harbor Commissioners, construction of this project is expected to commence as follows:

| Project | Construction Advertise | Construction Completion |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project | 06/01/2022 | 11/30/2025 |

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In October 2018, Caltrans District 7 as the CEQA Lead Agency, prepared and released for public review, a Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project (Project) (Transmittal 2).

The Draft IS/ND (SCH# 20181011003) was made available for public review on the Port of Los Angeles' website and a public hearing was held at the Port of Los Angeles' Harbor Administration Building during the public review period on October 17, 2018.

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Based on the public comments received and responses to those comments, Caltrans identified no new environmental effects that would trigger the need to re-circulate the IS/ND pursuant to the requirements of State CEQA Guidelines §15073.5.

On March 8, 2019, Caltrans adopted the Final IS/ND with no significant effects on the environment identified and no mitigation required for the Project.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15096(f), the Harbor Department, as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final IS/ND and concurs with these findings.

In accordance with Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines, Article I, and the State CEQA Guidelines §15096, a Notice of Determination will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk and State Clearinghouse as part of the Board's consideration of the IS/ND and after the Project is approved.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the proposed Baseline Agreement will establish the scope, expected benefits, schedule, cost, and the funding plan associated with the Project in order for the previously approved \$13,383,000 TCEP grant funding to be allocated. TCEP funds are paid on a monthly reimbursement basis which requires the Harbor Department to fund project costs first, and then seek reimbursement.

The table below summarizes estimated spending associated with the Project:

| Fiscal Year (FY) | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Prior Years | \$ 3,691,098 |
| FY 2021 | \$ 1,200,000 |
| FY 2022 | \$ 1,200,000 |
| FY 2023 | \$ 5,000,000 |
| FY 2024 | \$ 22,000,000 |
| FY 2025 | \$ 28,000,000 |
| FY 2026 | \$ 9,408,902 |
| Total Project Spending | \$ 70,500,000 |
| Less: TCEP Funds | (\$ 13,383,000) |
| Less: Harbor Department Funds | (\$ 5,552,000) |
| Equals: Other Agency Funds | \$ 51,565,000 |

Funding in the amount of \$1,200,000 has been included within the FY 2021 Adopted Budget, Division 1172, Project 2533400. Funding in future years will be requested through the annual budget adoption process. Additional funding details (including source of funding) for the Project will be detailed in future Board actions requesting approval of the construction contracts.

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The State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project is located within Caltrans property, City of Los Angeles property, and LAHD property. The aforementioned agencies will be responsible for on-going operations and maintenance on their respective properties.

CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of City Attorney has reviewed and signed the Baseline Agreement as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTAL:

1. TCEP Baseline Agreement (BA) for the State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge & Front St./Harbor Blvd. Interchange Reconfiguration Project
2. Final IS/ND for the State Route 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge and Front Street/Harbor Boulevard Interchange Reconfiguration Project

FIS Approval: MB (initials)

CA Approval: JS (initials)

Dina Aryan-Zalhan
Thru August 2020 (Apr 8, 2021 12:26 PM)

DAVID M. WALSH, P.E.
Chief Harbor Engineer

Antonio V. Gioiello

ANTONIO V. GIOIELLO, P.E.
Deputy Executive Director

APPROVED:

Marla Bleavins For

EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director

Author: S. Aziz

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