



DATE: December 11, 2024

TO: Orange County Planning Commission

FROM: OC Development Services/Planning

SUBJECT: Initiation of General Plan Amendment TGPA 24-02 – Transportation Element

PROPOSAL: Staff is requesting authorization to initiate General Plan Amendment TGPA 24-02 to update the Transportation Element to conform with the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH), administered by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) with updates to Santiago Canyon Road, El Toro Road, and Black Star Canyon Road.

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION / ZONING DISTRICT: Not Applicable

LOCATION: Unincorporated Areas of Orange County

APPLICANT: OC Development Services

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

OC Development Services/Planning recommends the Planning Commission:

- a. Receive staff report and public testimony.
- b. Authorize staff to initiate General Plan Amendment TGPA 24-02 – Transportation Element to update the County of Orange Transportation Element and make technical revisions as needed.

BACKGROUND:

The County of Orange (County) Transportation Element identifies goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs that affect the transportation system. The Transportation Element contains policies on the development of the transportation facilities necessary to accommodate orderly growth within the County, provides guidance for future planning efforts within the unincorporated area, and ensures a balanced transportation system. The Transportation Element

contains the Circulation Plan, Bikeways Plan, and Scenic Highways Plan. The Circulation Plan (Attachment 1) depicts the arterial highways that make up the surface transportation system within the unincorporated area. The proposed changes do not involve the Bikeways Plan or Scenic Highways Plan.

A goal identified in the Transportation Element is to provide a Circulation Plan that is integrated with that of adjacent jurisdictions. To achieve this goal, the County's transportation system is designed to be compatible with adjacent jurisdictions and amended as necessary to remain consistent with the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) (Attachment 2), administered by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). The MPAH depicts a Countywide roadway network intended to ensure coordinated transportation system development among local jurisdictions in Orange County.

OCTA reviews the circulation plans of all local jurisdictions in Orange County for consistency with the MPAH every two years and works with any jurisdictions that need to make necessary amendments to bring their plan into compliance. As part of the effort to maintain consistency in the Countywide roadway network, the County is responsible for reviewing the County-owned roadways to determine the types of proposed changes that need to be updated to ensure conformance with MPAH. Updates to the County's Circulation Plan require coordination with OCTA and other stakeholders. Upon OCTA's conditional approval of these changes, the County and all applicable agencies would need to amend their General Plans to be consistent with the MPAH.

Orange County Public Works (OCPW) initiated an MPAH amendment request with OCTA after evaluation of the County's transportation network in the unincorporated area. The request was conditionally approved by OCTA's Regional Transportation Planning Committee on August 29, 2024, and by OCTA's Board on September 9, 2024 (Attachment 3). Therefore, OCPW proposes to draft and make modifications to the County's Transportation Element and Circulation Plan to maintain consistency with the approved amendments to the MPAH.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

Staff is requesting authorization to update the County's Transportation Element and Circulation Plan to complete the following revisions:

1. Reclassify the existing classification of Primary Arterial (divided four-lane) to Divided Collector (divided two-lane with a center turn-lane) for Santiago Canyon Road between the State Route 241 (SR-241) and Live Oak Canyon Road.
2. Reclassify the existing classification of Major Arterial (divided six-lane) to Primary (divided four-lane) for El Toro Road between Live Oak Canyon Road and Pheasant Creek.
3. Reclassify the existing classification of Major Arterial (divided six-lane) to Asymmetric Primary (divided five-lane) for El Toro Road between Pheasant Creek and Portola Parkway.

4. Delete Black Star Canyon Road between Silverado Canyon Road and the Orange County/Riverside County line. The County's Circulation Plan currently depicts Black Star Canyon Road, between SR-241 and Live Oak Canyon Road, as a conceptually proposed Secondary Arterial.
5. Include technical revisions to the Transportation Element.

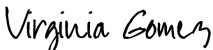
A traffic analysis prepared for the proposed Project supports the reclassification of the roadways as identified above. Following initiation of this General Plan Amendment by the Planning Commission, staff expects to return to Planning Commission in the coming months to recommend Board of Supervisors adoption of General Plan Amendment TGPA 24-02.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

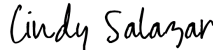
This action is not a project within the meaning of CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and is therefore not subject to CEQA, since it does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The approval of this item does not commit the County to a definite course of action in regard to a project since the action being authorized involves the initiation of an amendment to the County of Orange Transportation Element, which is administrative. This proposed activity is therefore not subject to CEQA. Any future action connected to this approval that constitutes a project will be reviewed for compliance with CEQA.

Submitted by:

Concurred by:

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Virginia Gomez, Senior Planner
OC Development Services/Planning

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Cindy Salazar, Division Manager
OC Public Works/Planning

Attachment 1 County of Orange Circulation Plan, 2024

Attachment 2 Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways, 2024

Attachment 3 Orange County Transportation Authority Staff Report Board Approval regarding Amendments to MPAH (September 9, 2024)