
ITEM #2

OC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

DATE: November 13, 2019

TO: Orange County Planning Commission

FROM: OC Development Services/Planning

SUBJECT: General Plan Amendment T19-02 – Transportation Element

PROPOSAL: Amend the County of Orange Circulation Plan, contained in the General Plan Transportation Element, to remove from the Circulation Plan: (1) a portion of Graham Street (a conceptually proposed roadway), and (2) a portion of Talbert Street from the City of Huntington Beach (City) limits to its current terminus on the MPAH (a conceptually proposed roadway). These amendments are proposed to conform the Circulation Plan to the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH), administered by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).

**ZONING/
GENERAL PLAN
DESIGNATION:** N/A

LOCATION: Unincorporated Areas of Orange County

APPLICANT: OC Development Services

**STAFF
CONTACT:** Joanna Chang, Land Use Manager
714.667.8815
Joanna.Chang@ocpw.ocgov.com

Cindy Salazar, Senior Planner
714.667.8870
Cindy.Salazar@ocpw.ocgov.com

Jamie Reyes, Civil Engineer
714.647.3903
Jamie.Reyes@ocpw.ocgov.com

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

OC Development Services/Planning recommends the Planning Commission:

- a. Receive staff report and public testimony.
- b. Adopt Planning Commission Resolution No. 19-05 (Attachment 1) recommending that the Board of Supervisors make the appropriate findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and adopt proposed General Plan Amendment T 19-02 – Transportation Element that will update the County of Orange Circulation Plan (Attachment 2).

BACKGROUND:

Staff received authorization from the Planning Commission on October 22, 2019 to initiate the General Plan Amendment T 19-02 – Transportation Element to update the County of Orange Circulation Plan. Planning staff coordinated with OC Public Works/Survey to update the Circulation Plan to incorporate the proposed revisions (Attachment 2)

The County of Orange Transportation Element contains the County’s policies on the development of the transportation facilities necessary to accommodate the orderly growth of the County. The Transportation Element identifies goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs that affect the transportation system and provide guidance for future planning efforts within the unincorporated area. The Transportation Element contains the Circulation Plan, Bikeways Plan, and Scenic Highways Plan. The proposed changes do not involve the Scenic Highway Plan. Implementation of these three plans is necessary to ensure a balanced transportation system.

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), 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. The MPAH describes an arterial highway system that effectively serves existing and adopted future land uses in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

OCTA responsible for maintaining its integrity and Countywide consistency. OCTA reviews the circulation plans of all local OC jurisdictions for consistency every two years, and works with any jurisdictions that need to make necessary amendment to bring their plan into compliance. Consistency with the MPAH is essential to the integrity of a functional regional highway network so jurisdictions are aware of the existing conditions, and able to adequately plan for various changes.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

In the OCTA MPAH, there are six (6) classifications of arterial highways: Principal (8 lane divided roadway), Major (6 lane divided roadway), Primary (4 lane divided roadway), Secondary (4 lane undivided roadway), Divided Collector (2 lane divided roadway), and Collector (2 lane undivided roadway).

Due to previous MPAH amendments within the Bolsa Chica Wetlands area, Graham Street and Talbert Avenue are not currently connected to other roadways and are not planned to connect with other regionally significant roadways on the Circulation Plan because these linkages no longer serve a regional purpose. Therefore, for the

reasons indicated above, OCPW/Infrastructure Programs proposes to remove the highway designations of these roadways in the County's Circulation Plan for the unbuilt portions of those roadways.

Proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02 includes the following revisions to the Circulation Plan:

1. Remove Graham Street from the Circulation Plan from the City limits to its current terminus on the MPAH, currently classified as a Secondary (four-lane, undivided) Arterial.

The County's Circulation Plan currently classifies Graham Street (a conceptually proposed roadway), from the City of Huntington Beach (City) limits to its current terminus on the MPAH, as a Secondary Arterial. The proposed amendment to the Circulation Plan will remove the roadway.

2. Remove Talbert Avenue from the City limits to its current terminus on the MPAH, currently classified as a Primary (four-lane, divided) Arterial.

The County's Circulation Plan currently depicts Talbert Avenue (a conceptually proposed roadway), from the City limits to its current terminus on the MPAH, as a Primary Arterial. This proposed update to the Circulation Plan will remove this roadway.

Pursuant to the OCTA Board's conditional approval action on March 10, 2014 (Attachment 3), the approval to (1) remove Graham Street and (2) remove Talbert Avenue from the City limits to its current terminus on the MPAH remains conditional until OCTA receives documentation that the County of Orange has amended their general plan and complies with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The City of Huntington Beach (City) provided an Amendment Request letter to OCTA on January 23, 2014 to delete Graham Street and Talbert Avenue from the MPAH (Attachment 4). Since then, the City has amended their General Plan on October 2, 2017 to remove the City's portion of Talbert Avenue and Graham Street. Upon the County's adoption of the proposed amendment, OCTA will approve the amendment to the MPAH.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The proposed project is Categorically Exempt (Class 15061(b)(3) and 15262) from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) and 15262, since these amendments respectively fall within CEQA's common sense exemption, and statutory exemption for planning and feasibility studies.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by,



Richard Vuong, Planning Manager
OC Development Services/Planning



Colby Cataldi, Deputy Director
OC Public Works/Development Services

- Attachment 1 Draft Planning Commission Resolution No. 19-05
- Attachment 2 Draft of Proposed Update to the County of Orange Circulation Plan
- Attachment 3 Conditional Approval Letter from OCTA dated May 9, 2014
- Attachment 4 Letter of Acknowledgement from City of Huntington Beach dated January 23, 2014

ATTACHMENT 1

RESOLUTION NO. 19-05 RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

November 13, 2019

On Motion of Commissioner _____, duly seconded and carried, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the County of Orange Transportation Element contains the County's policies on the development of the transportation facilities necessary to accommodate the orderly growth of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Element identifies goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs that affect the transportation system and provide guidance for future planning efforts within the unincorporated area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Element contains the Circulation Plan, Bikeways Plan, and Scenic Highways Plan, which are implemented to ensure a balanced transportation system; and

WHEREAS, 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) which is maintained by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA); and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*) (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines (title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 *et seq.*), the County, as Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02 – Transportation Element, is categorically exempt (Class 15061(b)(3) and 15262); and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2019 this Planning Commission approved authorization to initiate proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02 – Transportation Element; and

ATTACHMENT 1

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2019 this Planning Commission conducted a public hearing regarding proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02 – Transportation Element; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed and fully considered the proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02 – Transportation Element and has heard and considered the public comments that were presented to it at the public hearing held on this project and has determined after review and consideration to recommend adoption of proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02 – Transportation Element.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Planning Commission finds that the proposed project is categorically exempt (Class 15061(b)(3) and 15262) from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) and 15262.
2. The Planning Commission recommends the following revisions to the County of Orange Circulation Plan contained in the proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02 – Transportation Element:
 - (a) Remove Graham Street from the City limits to its current terminus on the MPAH (conceptually proposed roadway).
 - (b) Remove Talbert Avenue from the City limits to its current terminus on the MPAH (conceptually proposed roadway).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed General Plan Amendment T19-02– Transportation Element.

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Orange County Planning Commission, on November 13, 2019 to wit:

Ayes:	Commissioners:
Noes:	Commissioner(s):
Excused:	Commissioner(s):
Abstained:	Commissioner(s):

ATTACHMENT 1

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 19-05 was adopted on November 13, 2019, by the Orange County Planning Commission.

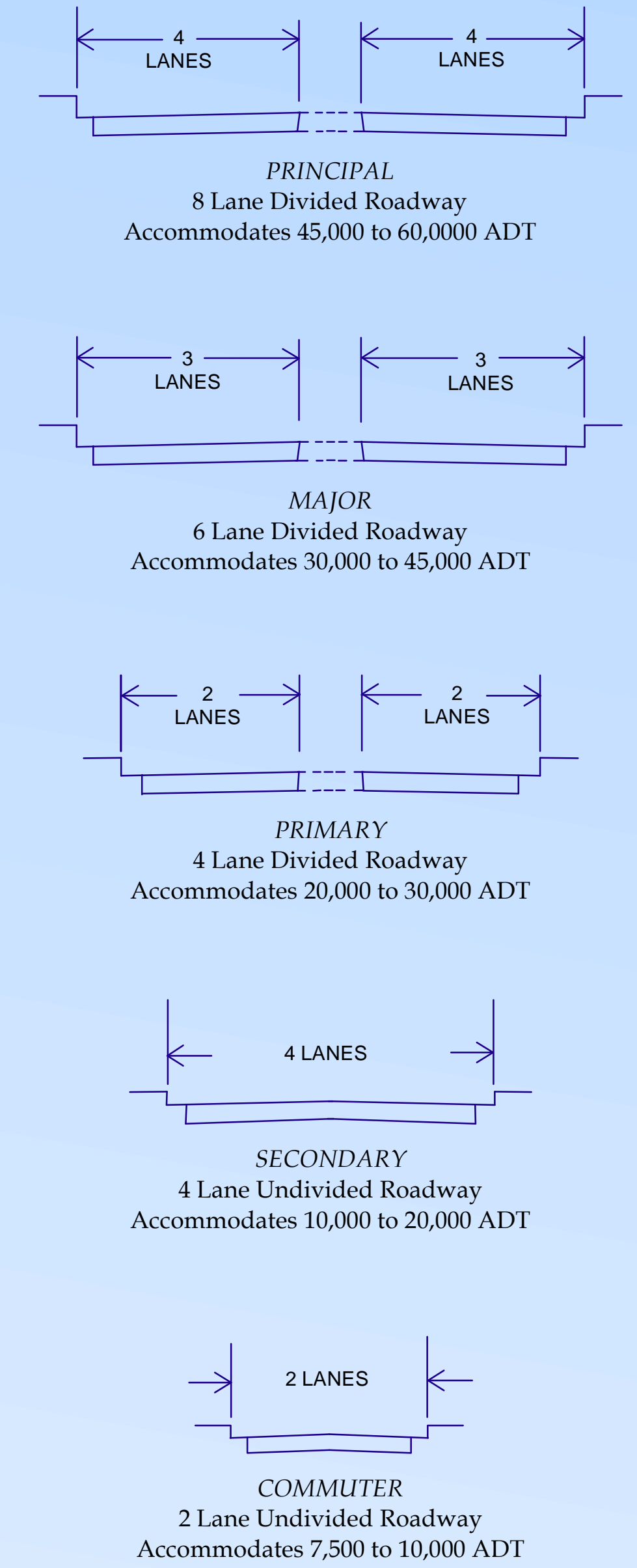
Colby Cataldi,
Executive Officer, Orange County Planning Commission

Resolution No. 19-05
Date of Adoption: November 13, 2019

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT 2 CIRCULATION PLAN

County of Orange, California



EXTRA RIGHT-OF-WAY MAY BE REQUIRED WHEN AN ARTERIAL HIGHWAY COINCIDES WITH AN ADOPTED ROUTE FOR AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC FACILITY (EX. PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, OR EQUESTRIAN TRAIL), OR FOR A SCENIC HIGHWAY. SEE CALTRANS DESIGN MANUAL.

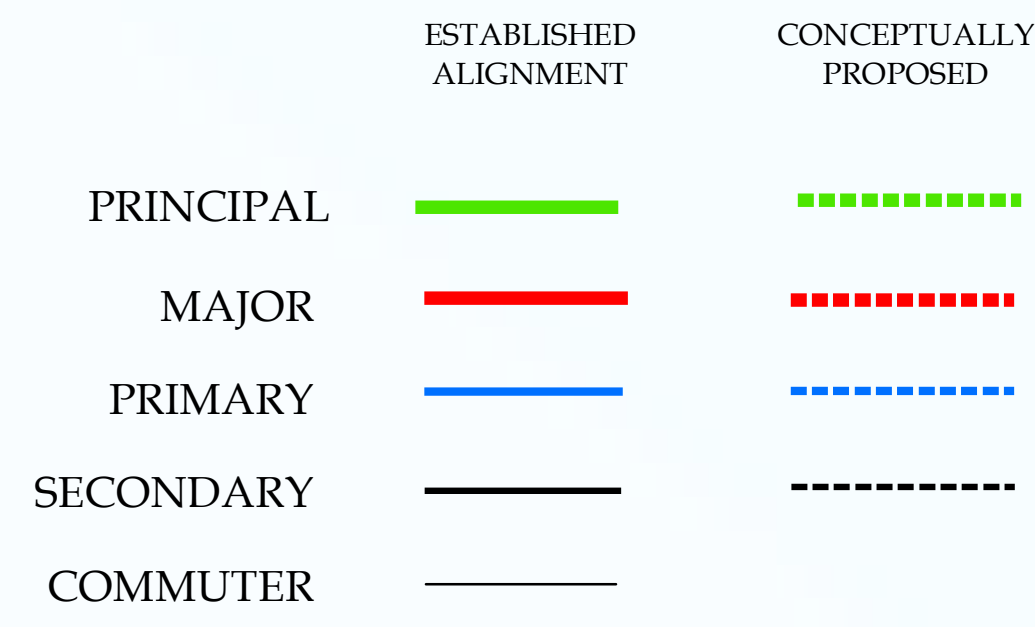
CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE RECOMMENDED CIRCULATION PLAN WAS APPROVED AS THE OFFICIAL MAP OF THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN BY THE ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ON NOVEMBER 13, 2019 AND ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NUMBER 19-XXX OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON _____, 2019

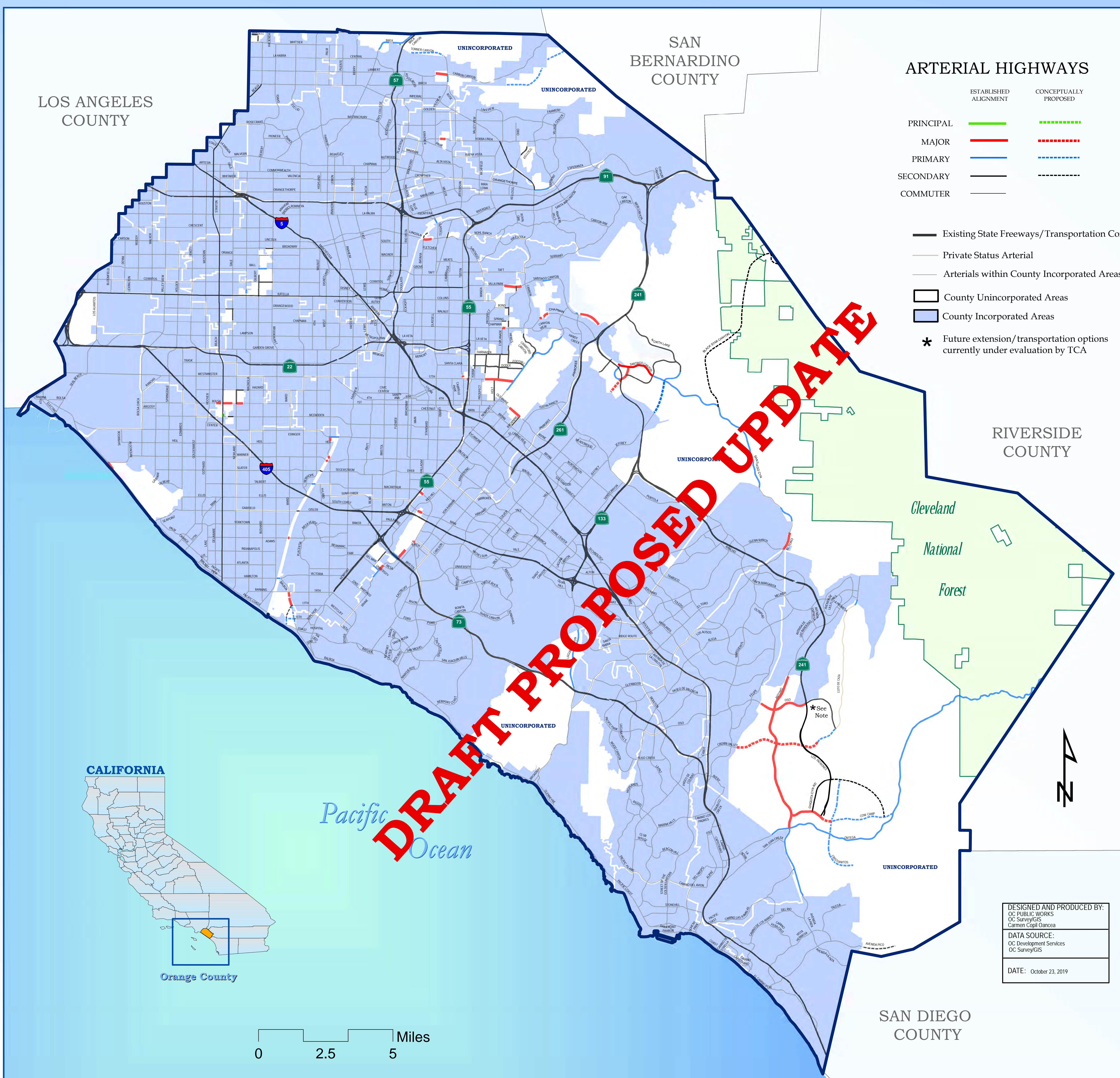
SHANE SILSBY, DIRECTOR
OC PUBLIC WORKS

NOTE: USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CHECK FOR SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CIRCULATION PLAN. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, REFER TO THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE GENERAL PLAN

ARTERIAL HIGHWAYS



- Existing State Freeways/Transportation Corridors
- Private Status Arterial
- Arterials within County Incorporated Areas
- County Unincorporated Areas
- County Incorporated Areas
- Future extension/transportation options currently under evaluation by TCA



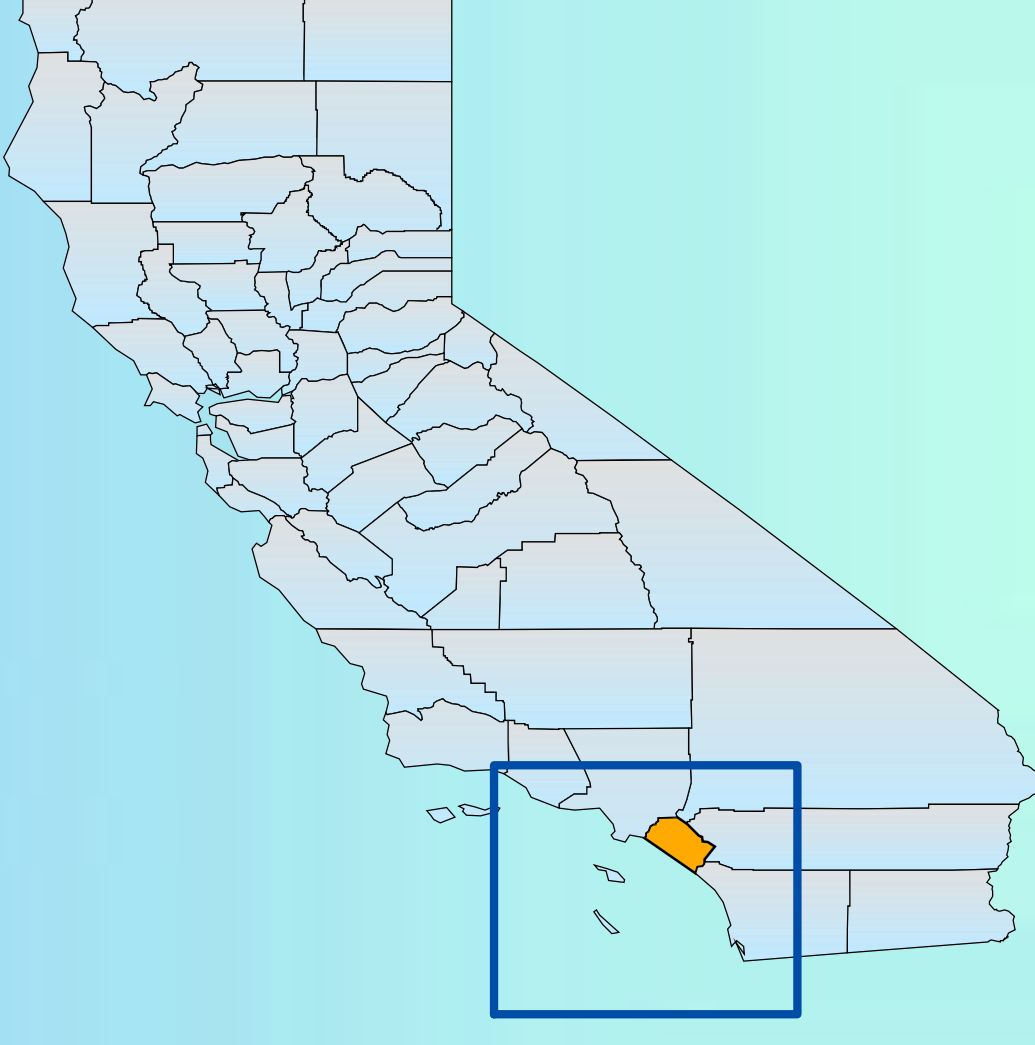
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

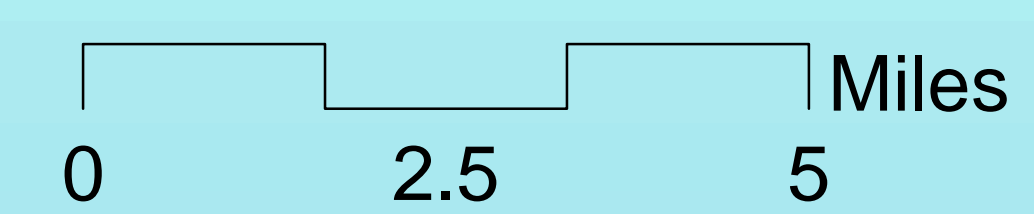
CALIFORNIA



Orange County

Pacific Ocean

Cleveland National Forest



DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY:
OC PUBLIC WORKS
OC Survey/GIS
Carmen Cogil Oancea

DATA SOURCE:
OC Development Services
OC Survey/GIS

DATE: October 23, 2019



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Darrell Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

May 9, 2014

Mr. Khalid Bazmi, P.E.
Road Division Manager
County of Orange
300 N. Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

Dear Mr. Bazmi:

On March 10, 2014 the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH). The amendment approved the following changes within the County of Orange (County):

- Removal of Graham Street from the Huntington Beach city limits to its current terminus on the MPAH; and
- Removal of Talbert Avenue from the Huntington Beach city limits to its current terminus on the MPAH.

The Board's approval remains conditional, until OCTA has received:

- Documentation that the County of Orange and the City of Huntington Beach (City) have amended their respective general plans and have complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Once these actions have occurred, please provide OCTA with copies of appropriate supporting documentation. Upon receipt of documentation from the County and the City, the MPAH will be updated accordingly.

Attached is the staff report and Board-approved minutes for your records. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Ed Alegre, Senior Transportation Analyst, at (714) 560-5738.

Sincerely,

Kurt Brotcke
Director, Strategic Planning

KB:ea
Attachments

c: Isaac Alonso Rice, County of Orange
Ed Alegre, OCTA



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Public Works Department

Travis K. Hopkins, PE
Director of Public Works

January 23, 2014

Mr. Joseph Alcock
Section Manager
Long Range Planning and Corridor Studies
Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street
P.O. Box 14184
Orange, CA 92863-1584

Subject: Request for MPAH Amendment

Dear Mr. Alcock:

The City of Huntington Beach requests that OCTA consider three amendments to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways in support of implementing the City's Circulation Element of the General Plan. Back in February 2013, the City approved an update to our Circulation Element that identified several street sections that had been either been over-classified or are no longer needed for regional traffic needs. Many of the street sections were addressed in a prior action by OCTA, but we continue to pursue completion of amendments to several remaining segments. The three amendments outlined in this letter appear to be very minor in nature based on the current transportation landscape of the area. The Graham Street and Talbert Avenue amendments directly tie into segments within the Bolsa Chica Wetlands area of the County of Orange. It is our understanding that the County of Orange has provided formal support for these amendments to OCTA.

The City of Huntington Beach request consideration of the following MPAH amendments:

- 1. Graham Street MPAH Deletion:** Huntington Beach is requesting that the segment of Graham Street south of Slater Avenue be deleted from the MPAH. This segment of Graham is no longer needed to meet any regional mobility needs and does not need to be retained as a Secondary Arterial. With the elimination of the Cross Gap Connector through the Bolsa Chica Wetlands area several years ago by OCTA, the roadway is not expected to ever connect with any other regionally significant roadways. Traffic volumes projections for this segment of Graham are expected to remain at current levels of 3,000 vehicles per day.
- 2. Talbert Avenue MPAH Deletion:** Huntington Beach is requesting that the segment of Talbert Avenue west of Springdale Street be deleted from the MPAH. This segment of Talbert no longer is needed to meet any regional mobility needs. With the elimination of the Cross Gap Connector through the Bolsa Chica Wetlands area several years ago by OCTA, the roadway is not expected to ever connect with any other regionally significant roadways and is not needed as a

Primary Arterial. Traffic volumes projections for this segment of Talbert are expected to remain at current levels of less than 3,000 vehicles per day.

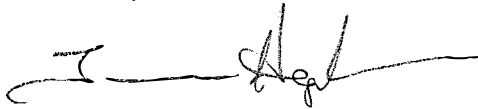
3. **6th Street MPAH Classification Downgrade:** Huntington Beach is requesting that the section of 6th Street between Main Street and Lake Street be reclassified to a Collector Arterial, consistent with the portion of 6th Street from PCH to Main Street. This section was inadvertently omitted from the reclassification request for the rest of 6th Street. The 2030 traffic projections for this segment are approximately 5,000 vehicles per day, well below the maximum service volumes of 10,000 vehicles per day for a Collector.

In the approval actions of the Circulation Element, the City Council authorized final action of these amendments pending approval by OCTA. Detailed information was provided following completion of our last set of amendments. If needed, we can formally resubmit this information when needed.

Associated with the requested amendments for Talbert and Graham, the City of Huntington Beach also supports the requested deletion of these segments and the connecting roadway within the Bolsa Chica Wetlands area by the County of Orange. We believe these changes will not affect regional mobility and access and would be consistent with the requested actions by the City of Huntington Beach.

If you should have any questions regarding any of these requests, please contact our Transportation Manager, Bob Stachelski at (714) 536-5523 or by email at bstachelski@surfcity-hb.org.

Sincerely,



Travis K. Hopkins, PE
Director of Public Works

- c: Bob Stachelski, Transportation Manager
 Tom Herbel, City Engineer
 Mary Beth Broeren, Planning Manager
 Ricky Ramos, Senior Planner