



DATE: April 26, 2018

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director
Nicholas Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager

SUBJECT: Design Funding for Highway 101 Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) B1-Phase 2 and A4 Contracts (Action), Agenda Item No. 6b

RECOMMENDATION

Move to approve the substitution of \$206,000 in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Planning, Programming and Monitoring Program (PPM) funds with Cities/Towns and County Contribution funds to assist with funding preliminary design of the Highway 101 Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN) Phase 2 projects.

This item was discussed at the Programming and Projects Executive Committee on April 9th, where it was approved and referred to the full Board for consent approval.

BACKGROUND

The Highway 101 Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) B1-Phase 2 and A4 contracts are the last two phases of the carpool lane and multi-use pathway improvement projects in Marin County. Sonoma is likewise completing design of the last phases of construction in Sonoma County. Ideally, both Marin and Sonoma will complete the Narrows in the next few years.

Overall, the Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project is widening approximately 17 miles of US 101 from four to six lanes by adding carpool lanes in each direction, creating a controlled access freeway and upgrading the highway to current freeway standards from Route 37 in Novato (Marin County) to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma (Sonoma County). It is part of the overall regional plan to provide continuous carpool lanes through Marin and Sonoma Counties.

In addition to the carpool lanes, new interchanges and frontage roads are being built to remove unsafe access from private properties and local roads. The project also includes continuous Class I and Class II bikeways between Novato and Petaluma.

With Sonoma County Transportation Authority's (SCTA) two remaining MSN projects ready for construction and the State's Senate Bill (SB) 1 providing upcoming transportation funding for projects like the Narrows, it is imperative that TAM begins design of the last two major segments (B1 Phase 2 and A4) in Marin to position itself for additional advance design funding, as well as key construction funding, to complete the entire corridor. The design work is for the final completion of both the northbound and southbound HOV Lane through Marin County. For this reason, the Board authorized initial design work and awarded a \$700,000 contract to BKF Engineers in August 2017 with funding that originated in TAM's OBAG2 program decisions in July and September 2016, and were included in TAM's FY 2017/18 budget approval.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In recent discussions with the Caltrans Local Assistance Division, TAM was informed that highway capital projects, such as the Highway 101 MSN project, were not eligible for STIP PPM funds. For this reason, staff is recommending that the STIP PPM funds envisioned for this project be substituted with Cities/Towns and County Contribution funds. The activities and programs that would be funded with Cities/Towns and County Contribution funds could equally use and apply the STIP PPM funds so there are no concerns with this exchange.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

There is no cost to the recommended action, and funds are available in STIP PPM and Cities/Towns and County Contribution funds for this exchange.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue working with the design consultant to deliver preliminary design of the Highway 101 MSN B1-Phase 2 and A4 Contracts.