STAFF REPORT
CITY OF YORBA LINDA

Community Development Department

DATE: APRIL 7, 2020

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DAVID BRANTLEY, AICP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PREPARED BY: GREG REHMER, SENIOR PLANNER

SUBJECT: GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 2019-01

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-5662 approving an amendment to the Circulation Element of the Yorba Linda General Plan to modify the Circulation Element Map to; 1) reclassify a portion of Esperanza Road roadway in the City boundary between the City boundary to the west and Fairmont Boulevard overcrossing to the east, from a Major 6 Lane (divided) to a Primary 4 Lane (divided), and; 2) reclassify Fairmont Connector roadway, between Esperanza Road to the southwest and Fairmont Boulevard to the northeast, from a Collector 2 Lane to a Primary 4 Lane (divided). The proposed amendments are intended to conform the City’s Circulation Element to the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) administered by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On April 9, 2018, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) received notice from the Regional Planning and Highways Committee approving an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) for a number of roadway sections within the City of Yorba Linda and the County of Orange (please see attached transmittal dated April 9, 2018). The proposed reclassifications within the City of Yorba Linda are intended to support the County’s efforts to complete the Orange County (OC) Loop Segment H (El Cajon Bikeway) multi-use trail. The OC Loop is a planned alternative transportation corridor comprising 66 miles of regional non-motorized recreational/commuter cycling and pedestrian routes that provide seamless connections and an opportunity for people to bike, walk, and connect to some of California’s beaches and inland destinations. Approximately 70% of the OC Loop is already in place and Segment H would close an existing gap in the OC Loop, which includes portions within the City of Yorba Linda.

Final approval of the proposed amendments to the MPAH requires the City to amend the Circulation Element of the City’s General Plan to ensure consistency with the MPAH amendments. Therefore, General Plan Amendment 2019-01 is for the purpose of amending the current roadway classification in the 2016 General Plan Circulation
Element for the portion of Esperanza Road, extending from the City boundary to the west and Fairmont Boulevard overcrossing to the east, from a Major 6 Lane to a Primary 4 Lane, and the entire Fairmont Connector from a Collector 2 Lane to a Primary 4 Lane. At present, these roadway sections have been approved for re-designation from a Major Arterial (six-lane, divided) to a Primary Arterial (four-lane, divided) within the Master Plan of Arterial Highways. However as previously stated, the proposed amendments will not become final until the City has amended its General Plan consistent with OCTA’s recommendation.

Consistency between local agency general plans and the County’s Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) is required in order to qualify for certain transportation funding programs, including Measure M. Further, as previously noted the proposed reclassifications are intended to support the County’s efforts to complete the Orange County (OC) Loop Segment H (El Cajon Bikeway) multi-use trail.

It should be noted that the new classification (Primary Arterial) of both roadways is consistent with the “as-built” conditions as far as curb-to-curb dimensions and number of lanes, and the reclassifications will not result in the modification of the actual street widths, vehicle flow, and/or traffic volumes. Further, based upon the traffic analysis prepared by the County of Orange, current and projected Average Daily Traffic (ADT), which is the average number of vehicles two-way passing a specific point in a 24-hour period, for the portion of Esperanza Road and Fairmont Connector to be reclassified would not exceed the Primary Arterial (i.e. four-lane, divided) roadway classification capacity proposed by the County.

Planning Commission Review

The Planning Commission reviewed General Plan Amendment 2019-01 on March 11, 2020. Although General Plan amendments are a public hearing matter, no public comments were received regarding proposed General Plan Amendment 2019-01. The Planning Commission unanimously supported the requested amendment and adopted Resolution No. 5404 recommending approval to the City Council. Staff has attached the March 11, 2020, Planning Commission staff report for a detailed description of the proposed project, as well as the meeting minutes and Resolution No. 5404 for the City Council’s reference.

FISCAL IMPACT

Since the proposed General Plan amendment is necessary to ensure eligibility for funding assistance programs (including Measure M) for roadway maintenance and improvement projects, the proposed amendment supports the City Council’s goal of ensuring the short term and long term financial security of the City by potentially reducing the cost burden associated with maintaining these roadway sections. Additionally, the Orange County (OC) Loop Segment H (El Cajon Bikeway) multi-use trail proposed within the street rights-of-way will be entirely funded by the County.
ALTHERNATIVES

If the City Council were to deny General Plan Amendment 2019-01, the current designation of the subject segment of Esperanza Road and entire Fairmont Connector the 2016 General Plan Circulation Element would remain in place. As such, the City would not be eligible to receive funding for maintenance of these roadway sections through Measure M and other County roadway funding assistance programs.

ATTACHMENTS

1) Planning Commission Minutes and Staff Report from March 11, 2020, Planning Commission meeting
2) Planning Commission Resolution No. 5404
3) OCTA Committee Transmittal dated April 9, 2018, with attachments
4) 2016 General Plan Circulation Element Map (Exhibit CR-2)
5) Resolution No. 2020-5662

Approved by:

[Signature]

Mark A. Pulone
City Manager