



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Transportation for the McCall Boulevard / I-215 Interchange Project

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Haile Ford, Senior Engineer

REVIEWED BY: Carlos Geronimo, Engineering Manager

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the McCall Boulevard/Interstate 215 Interchange, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project No. 14-01.

DISCUSSION

Location

McCall Boulevard is an east-west road classified as a six-lane urban arterial roadway east of I-215 and a four-lane divided roadway west of I-215 in the City's General Plan. To the east of I-215, McCall Boulevard is currently a four-lane roadway with a two-way left turn lane, a striped median, curbs, and partial sidewalks. To the west of I-215 it is a four-lane divided major roadway with a raised median, curbs, and sidewalks.

McCall Boulevard / Interstate 215 Interchange Project, CIP No. 14-01

The proposed interchange project at the intersection of McCall Boulevard and I-215 is identified as a priority project in the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024. Several recent large residential and commercial developments on the eastern side of the City have contributed to increased traffic impacts to the interchange. To alleviate these impacts, the City has identified the need for operational and capacity improvements at the I-215 interchange at McCall Boulevard.

The McCall Boulevard / Interstate 215 Interchange project, CIP No. 14-01 ("Project") would widen the existing overcrossing between Bradley Road and Encanto Drive to ultimate capacity by increasing the through lanes to three-lanes in each direction, re-aligning and widening the on and

off ramps, constructing sidewalks, dedicating bicycle lanes, installing street lighting, and improving the intersections of Bradley Road and Encanto Drive.

The Project is currently in the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase of design. As a part of the PA&ED phase, coordination with several external local agencies is necessary, one of which is the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The Project's proposed expansion from four to six lanes is considered a capacity enhancement and would increase Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per Caltrans guidelines; therefore, the Project is subject to VMT mitigation requirements.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Menifee and Caltrans to establish the VMT mitigation commitment that was identified in the Project's Induced Travel Study conducted in October 2022. Several strategies have been incorporated into the Project design to mitigate the increased VMT including improvements for the addition of sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of the overpass. While these additions will be a benefit, these measures alone do not satisfy the necessary VMT mitigation requirements.

Efforts to Mitigate VMT Impacts

The City's Active Transportation Plan, approved by the City Council in 2020, previously recommended to enhance multimodal safety along La Piedra Road. Subsequently, as part of the plan to mitigate the VMT impacts of this Project, and satisfy the mitigation efforts required by Caltrans, the proposed MOU includes a plan for a "road diet," or a reduction of lanes. The lane reduction proposed is to remove 1.52 lane miles along the segment of La Piedra Road that runs from Menifee Road to Antelope Road.

The reconstruction of La Piedra Road has already been identified as CIP No. 22-25, ATP – La Piedra Road at Bell Mountain Middle School within the City's 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program and is currently funded through City fund Nos. 105 and 301 (Quality of Life Measure and Grants). The total anticipated cost for the road diet is approximately \$446,210.

Execution of the proposed MOU is a necessary initial step in moving the Project through the PA&ED phase.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Connectivity and Mobility

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with entering into the MOU with Caltrans.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Project Location Map – McCall Interchange
2. Project Location Map – La Piedra Road
3. MOU with Caltrans