



AGENDA REPORT

Department: Engineering & Public Works
Prepared by: Luca Zappiello, Associate Engineer-Civil
Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Approved by: Scott W. Huth, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT:

Memorandum of Understanding between San Diego Unified Port District, San Diego Association of Governments, California Department of Transportation, City of San Diego, and National City for development of the Harbor Dr. 2.0 Port Access Improvements Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Resolution Entitled: "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Authorizing the City Manager or Designee to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding Between the San Diego Unified Port District, the San Diego Association of Governments, the California Department of Transportation, the City of San Diego, and the City of National City for Collaboration in the Development and Implementation of the Harbor Drive 2.0 Port Access Improvements Project."

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE PRIOR ACTION:

Not Applicable.

EXPLANATION:

On February 7, 2023, per Resolution No. 2023-07, the City authorized execution of a five-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to prepare and approve the environmental document for the I-5/SR-15/Harbor Drive 2.0 Connected Corridor project.

The initial scope of the project included the introduction of dedicated truck lanes for all-day and off-peak hours, as well as the implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies along Harbor Drive and the connecting arterials to I-5 and SR-15 in San Diego and National City.

After the MOA was executed, the scope of the I-5/SR-15/Harbor Drive 2.0 Connected Corridor project was expanded to include the construction of the Vesta Street Bridge, along with the installation of ITS technologies on Harbor Drive. The proposed Vesta Street Bridge will provide direct vehicular connectivity between the east and west sections of Naval Base San Diego, which are currently separated by rail lines and Harbor Drive.

Additionally, the project title changed from the I-5/SR-15/Harbor Drive 2.0 Connected Corridor project to the Harbor Drive 2.0 Port Access Improvements Project (Project).

The attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will have a term of five years and aims for all parties involved to collaborate towards the shared objective of completing the Design and Right-of-Way Certification phases of the Project. The parties identified in the MOU include the

San Diego Unified Port District, the San Diego Association of Governments, the California Department of Transportation, the City of San Diego, and the City of National City.

A key point to note about the MOU is that the Port District and SANDAG secured funding for the design and right-of-way phases in February 2024. SANDAG will lead the design and Right-of-Way Certification outside of Caltrans Right-of-Way, while Caltrans will lead the Right-of-Way Certification within its own Right-of-Way for the Harbor Drive ITS Component. This proposed Harbor Drive ITS Component element includes improvements along Harbor Drive in National City and plans to install two traffic signals along 8th Street at the off-ramp and on-ramp of Interstate 5. Additionally, the Vesta Street Bridge element is located within the City of San Diego.

Staff has reviewed the MOU, and agrees with its terms and conditions.

Staff recommends that the Council adopt the resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute the MOU.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

No matching City funds required at this time.

RELATED CITY COUNCIL 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Health, Environment, and Sustainability

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This is not a project under CEQA, and is therefore, not subject to environmental review. CCR15378; PRC 21065.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

The Agenda Report was posted at least 72 hours before the Regular Meeting date and time, and 24 hours before a Special Meeting in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act

ORDINANCE:

Not Applicable

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A – Agreement

Exhibit B – Concept Plans of the Harbor Drive ITS Component element, showing only the area in National City

Exhibit C – Resolution