



# NEWPORT BEACH

## City Council Staff Report

November 19, 2024  
Agenda Item No. 2

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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**TITLE:** Resolution No. 2024-86: Approving Submittal of Grant Funding Application Under Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program (CTFP)

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### **ABSTRACT:**

City of Newport Beach staff recently applied for grant funding for the West Coast Highway Widening at Old Newport Boulevard project under the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program (CTFP). OCTA requires each application to include an adopted resolution. Therefore, staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 2024-86 so that the City's request for \$4.1 million in grant funding will be considered under the grant program.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Adopt Resolution No. 2024-86, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Approving the Submittal of a Funding Application for an Arterial Capacity Enhancement Project to the Orange County Transportation Authority for Funding Under the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program, for the West Coast Highway Widening at Old Newport Boulevard project.*

### **DISCUSSION:**

In August 2024, OCTA announced the opening of the 2025 CTFP Call for Projects. All 34 Orange County cities and unincorporated County of Orange (35 agencies total) were invited to submit grant funding applications. Applications were due on October 24, 2024, and will be evaluated and scored by OCTA. Approximately \$30 million in funding is available from the renewed Measure M (M2) for this competitive CTFP Regional Capacity Program (RCP) Call for Projects. The RCP is further divided into three categories: 1) Arterial Capacity Enhancement (ACE), 2) Intersection Capacity Enhancement (ICE), and 3) Freeway Arterial/Street Transition (FAST).

City staff submitted a funding application under the ACE category for the West Coast Highway Widening at Old Newport Boulevard project. A draft resolution was included with the application as required by the funding guidelines.

The proposed improvements at the intersection of West Coast Highway and Old Newport Boulevard involve bicycle and vehicle capacity and channelization improvements. This project includes widening the north side of West Coast Highway to continue the third westbound through lane underneath Newport Boulevard, a dedicated right-turn lane onto Old Newport Boulevard, a bicycle lane, and other minor site improvements. The proposed project will improve vehicular channelization, reduce traffic congestion, and improve pedestrian and bicycle movements.

The CTFP is awarded in two separate phases: 1) planning and 2) implementation. Funding for the planning phase goes towards environmental clearance and engineering efforts. Funding for the implementation phase is applied towards right-of-way acquisition and construction costs. The City previously applied for and was awarded M2 grant funding in 2013 for the planning phase of this project. Environmental documents were adopted in 2018 and engineering plans and specifications are currently 90% complete.

As part of the current 2025 Call for Projects, staff is applying for both right-of-way and construction funding (i.e. implementation phase). Should the project be funded and move forward, partial right-of-way acquisition will be required from two parcels; 1) A Market and A Restaurant located at 3400 and 3334 West Coast Highway, respectively, and 2) Mariner's Mile Medical Plaza located at 3300 West Coast Highway. (Attachment A is a depiction of the proposed project location and the two impacted parcels.) The City's application requests \$4,111,458 of M2 grant funds, which represents 75% of the total participating cost of the project. If successful, the City will be required to provide a 25% match, which is \$1,370,486.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

If the City is awarded the M2 grant funding, it will be required to provide a local funding match of approximately \$1,370,500 for the West Coast Highway Widening at Old Newport Boulevard project. The matching funds will need to be included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for City Council consideration. City Transportation and Circulation Funds, which are derived from a development fee charged to developments that increase traffic and related impacts, would be the primary funding source.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Location Map

Attachment B – Resolution No. 2024-86