



## Staff Report

**TO:** Mayor, and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Jeff Hart, Public Works Director  
**DATE** May 18, 2021  
**SUBJECT: Highland Springs Interchange Project Update and Recommendation for Approval of the First Contract Amendment Authorizing the Project Approval and Environmental Document Phase (PA/ED)**

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### Background and Analysis:

On September 17, 2019, City Council approved a cooperative agreement between the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the City of Banning, and the City of Beaumont for the preparation of a Project Study Report (PSR) for the Highland Springs Interchange (Project). The Project is located adjacent to and within the jurisdictional boundaries of both the City of Banning and the City of Beaumont.

City staff has been actively working with design and traffic consultants for the Project as well as staff from the City of Banning, RCTC, and Caltrans to develop the potential four alternatives for the Project moving forward, five if you include the required "No-Build" option. The 5 alternatives studied in the PSR are as follows:

1. No Build,
2. Hook Ramps:
  - a. Option A – New westbound on-ramp from Joshua Palmer Way east of Highland Springs Avenue,
  - b. Option B – New westbound on-ramp from Joshua Palmer Way at intersection with Apex Street,
3. Diverging Diamond Interchange with crossover before Union Pacific Railroad Structure, and
4. Diverging Diamond Interchange with crossover after Union Pacific Railroad Structure.

The first draft of the PSR was submitted to Caltrans in April 2021 and is currently under review. It is anticipated that the PSR will obtain approval in August 2021.

The Western Riverside Council of Governments is utilizing \$2 million towards this Project contributed by the City of Beaumont pursuant to its settlement agreement with them to resolve the TUMF dispute. Current projections are that approximately \$500,000 will have been expended to complete the PSR. Banning, Beaumont, and RCTC are now recommending that the original cooperative agreement be amended to include the project approval and environmental document (PA/ED) phase. It is anticipated that the remainder of Beaumont's original \$2 million contribution is sufficient to complete both the PSR and PA/ED phases of the Project.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The cost of preparing the staff report is estimated to be \$750.

**Recommended Action:**

Receive and file the Highland Springs Project update, and  
Authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Cooperative Agreement between RCTC, the City of Banning, and the City of Beaumont to include the project approval and environmental document phase.

**Attachments:**

- A. Amendment No. 1 to the Cooperative Agreement between RCTC, the City of Banning, and the City of Beaumont