

Meeting of Oct. 10, 2022

Measure M Contributes \$1 Billion to Orange County Streets

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board received an update on the Measure M streets and roads program and celebrated a major milestone, with \$1 billion in funding invested to improve Orange County's streets.

From 2011 to 2022, Measure M – Orange County's half-cent sales tax, also known as OC Go – has distributed \$1 billion to three formula-based programs:

- \$598 million through the Local Fair Share program, which is distributed via formula to cities and the County to preserve existing streets and roads and provide other transportation improvements based on local needs.
- \$283.4 million through the Regional Capacity Program, which provides competitive funding to make improvements to busy streets and intersections.
- \$119.6 million through the Regional Traffic Synchronization Program, which provides competitive funding for projects that time traffic lights to ensure drivers hit more green lights.

The implementation of projects with these funds has resulted in improved congestion, lessened stop-and-go traffic, and environmental benefits.

For more information, visit OCGo.com/streets.

Board Receives Update on 2022 Long-Range Transportation Plan

The OCTA board provided input on a short-term action plan and strategies that will be included in the 2022 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which OCTA develops every four years to meet Orange County's evolving mobility needs for the next 20 years and beyond.

The long-range plan aims to find a solution to the challenges that come with the increasing travel demand, evolving travel trends, increasing climate related risks, funding outlook, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. The goals for this plan are to deliver on Measure M commitments, improve system performance, expand system choices and support sustainability.

The plan proposes the following seven key strategies:

1. Extend or modify select Measure M programs
2. Expand transit services
3. Enhance active transportation
4. Explore mobility integration
5. Eliminate freeway chokepoints
6. Embrace technology
7. Elevate maintenance and resilience priorities

The implementation of these strategies would include projects and programs such as roadway improvements, microtransit, mobility hubs, maintaining existing infrastructure, and more.

The draft long-range plan is expected to be released next month and will be available for public review from Nov. 28, 2022, through Jan. 23, 2023.

For more information, visit octa.net/lrtp.

Board Receives Report on Construction Market Conditions

OCTA's board was presented with a report analyzing and forecasting construction market conditions to provide insight into potential project cost factors that may impact Measure M projects.

The report included economic trends and conditions, material costs and labor costs. Other project cost drivers include supply chain disruptions and the current war on Ukraine.

The analysis shows that despite material costs increasing and increases in wages being offset by inflation, the labor market remains strong and tight with low unemployment rates. The report concluded that OCTA will continue to feel the current effects of inflation into 2023 and 2024, with cost pressures cooling in 2025.