

Meeting of March 14, 2016

OCTA receives grant for active transportation plan

The Orange County Transportation Authority was awarded \$280,000 to complete the Orange County Active Transportation Plan.

The funds come from the Active Transportation Program through the California Transportation Commission, in partnership with the Southern California Association of Governments. The program is intended to increase the use of active modes of transportation, including biking and walking.

OCTA and Orange County cities have been proactive in the planning and implementation of active transportation facilities, including transit access studies, regional bikeway planning and the OCTA Sidewalk Inventory. The plan would consolidate these efforts and would identify and prioritize potential bicycle and pedestrian improvements countywide.

Bus service added to Angels Express lineup

The South Coast Air Quality Management District awarded OCTA \$128,500 in grant funds to pilot the Angels Express Bus Service for the upcoming 2016 baseball season.

The proposed express bus service will supplement the Angels Express Metrolink rail service, offering a convenient alternative to driving for fans headed to the ballpark.

The bus service will travel from the Goldenwest Transportation Center in Huntington Beach to Angel Stadium of Anaheim and will serve 50 regular season evening weekday home games from April 4 to Sept. 30. The service will require a \$2 fare per boarding and all applicable fare discounts and passes will be accepted.

The service is estimated to have more than 9,000 boardings for the season. If successful, the Angels Express Bus Service can be expanded in future years to other areas of the county.

OCTA offering \$20 million for bikeway projects

OCTA is looking to award up to \$20 million in grants for bicycle projects as part of its ongoing effort to provide residents access to alternative transportation and encourage them to bike to their destinations.

The Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program 2016 Call for Projects is a \$20 million bicycle program available to Orange County cities and the county. Funding for the program comes from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, which is a federal program that provides funding for transportation projects that help meet federal Clean Air Act requirements.

To date, the OCTA program has helped fund 28 projects for \$10 million around the county.

Project applications are due to OCTA on May 9. Applications will be competitively scored based on criteria that includes elements like air quality, safety enhancements and cost effectiveness. The board is scheduled to vote on awarding the funds in August.

Board approves cooperative agreements with cities for I-405 Improvement Project

The board approved cooperative agreements between OCTA and the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach and Westminster for services required during design-build implementation of the Interstate 405 Improvement Project.

The I-405 Improvement Project will add one general purpose lane on the I-405 from Euclid Street to the I-605. It will also add an additional lane in each direction from the SR-73 to the I-605 that would combine with the high-occupancy vehicle lane to provide dual express lanes in each direction. The project includes improvements to city-owned and operated street and traffic facilities impacted by the project.

The cooperative agreements with each of the I-405 cities is necessary to define the roles and responsibilities of each agency during the project's implementation. The agreements are all similar, making OCTA the lead agency for management and implementation of the project.

Board receives quarterly Measure M update

The OCTA board received a Measure M progress report for the period of October 2015 through December 2015.

Measure M is the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements that was approved by Orange County voters in November 1990 and renewed in November 2006.

Significant accomplishments include:

- The I-5/Ortega Highway interchange construction opened to traffic. A dedication ceremony for the project took place in October.
- The Raymond Avenue grade separation bypass road was opened to traffic in October.
- OCTA received 18 applications for the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program. Final recommendations are scheduled to go to the board for approval in April.
- The Tustin Avenue/Rose Drive roadway was opened to traffic in December.

The third M2 Triennial Performance Assessment, covering the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015, is underway. The assessment evaluates OCTA's performance on a range of activities covering planning, management and delivery of the Measure M program. The final report will be presented to the board in May.