

Meeting of April 11, 2016

Millions from Measure M Awarded to Alleviate Traffic Countywide

The Orange County Transportation Authority board allocated more than \$50 million to help ease traffic through Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

The board awarded funding to 19 projects in 11 cities and the county that will improve and widen busy streets and intersections. Seven additional projects will receive funding to synchronize traffic signals to ensure drivers hit the most green lights during rush hours.

A call for projects was issued by OCTA in August 2015 through the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program, making funding available to improve congested streets and to synchronize traffic signals. Project applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency and adherence to Measure M guidelines. OCTA has awarded more than \$300 million in these program funds to date.

The cities receiving project funds are Anaheim, Brea, Costa Mesa, Irvine, La Habra, La Palma, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Orange, Santa Ana and Tustin. The county is also receiving funding for an intersection improvement project.

Freeway Service Patrol Firms Selected

The OCTA board approved the selection of California Coach Orange, Inc. from Orange and Beach Town LLC from Lake Forest, doing business as Orange County Motor Club, to provide Freeway Service Patrol services.

The program is intended to decrease traffic on the county's freeways by quickly removing disabled vehicles from traffic lanes and shoulders, along with responding to accidents and other incidents that require the removal of debris on the freeways.

Private tow truck companies operate the service under contract with OCTA. Tow truck operators patrol their assigned area, offering assistance to drivers, such as changing a flat tire, offering a free gallon of gas or taping a coolant hose. If assistance can't be completed within 10 minutes, the vehicle is towed off the freeway.

The service is free to drivers, with an average of 5,500 assists provided monthly. It is funded through the State Highway Account through Caltrans, a \$1 fee on registered vehicles that supports various motorist services, and Measure M.

Pacific Coast Highway Corridor Study Completed

The board received an update on the findings of the Pacific Coast Highway Corridor Study.

In 2012, the cities along Pacific Coast Highway requested that OCTA conduct the study. The primary objective of it was to develop a set of improvement options for the corridor, extending from the Los Angeles County line in Seal Beach to Avenida Pico in San Clemente, approximately 37 miles.

Most of the study's recommendations focus on identifying options that will serve specific needs for areas of Pacific Coast Highway instead of the corridor as a whole. Examples include:

- Sidewalk and bicycle lane gap closures in Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach and San Clemente
- Bicycle lane striping at right-hand turn pockets in Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach and Seal Beach
- Relocation of parking to add bicycle lane striping in Dana Point, Laguna Beach and Newport Beach
- Adding pedestrian overcrossings in Dana Point and Newport Beach

Staff will begin to brief cities on the study's findings and recommendations.