



October 9, 2025

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with the City of Newport Beach for the Newport Transportation Center Relocation Feasibility Study

Overview

At the request of, and in partnership with, the City of Newport Beach, the Orange County Transportation Authority proposes to conduct a joint feasibility study evaluating potential relocation of the Newport Transportation Center currently located at 1550 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach. The study will follow a standard process to assess alternative sites, ridership impacts, operational considerations, environmental and regulatory requirements, and opportunities for improved regional mobility connections. The scope of work and cooperative agreement are discussed herein.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Agreement between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the City of Newport Beach for the Newport Transportation Center Relocation Feasibility Study.

Background

The Newport Transportation Center (NTC), located at 1550 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach, serves as a key hub for OC Bus services in the City of Newport Beach (City), providing regional access to destinations across Orange County and connections to employment, educational, and recreational centers (Attachment A). The NTC opened for bus service in 1991 through an agreement with the Irvine Company. Currently, the NTC serves four OC Bus routes (1, 55, 57, and 79) that enable riders to connect to major destinations within and outside of the County. The site also functions as a park-and-ride facility and has long been an anchor for transit access in central coastal Orange County.

In June 2025, the Newport Beach City Council directed staff to explore relocating Fire Station No. 3 to the current NTC site, prompting the City to request a joint study with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) to evaluate relocating the NTC (Attachment B). The City identified 3848 Campus Drive, Newport Beach as its preferred location for a new transit center. In August 2025, OCTA responded that while the Campus Drive site could be considered, other alternatives must also be evaluated as part of a comprehensive feasibility study, with continuity of service prioritized to minimize impacts to current customers (Attachment C). Coordinated planning between OCTA and the City is necessary to address operational feasibility, ridership demand, environmental and regulatory compliance, and cost-sharing considerations before moving forward with any relocation effort.

The joint study will:

- Evaluate multiple alternative sites, including the City's preferred site at 3848 Campus Drive, Newport Beach
- Analyze operational feasibility, ridership demand, and multimodal access
- Assess legal and regulatory considerations, including compliance with Federal Transit Administration requirements, the California Surplus Land Act, and local land use/zoning regulations
- Evaluate environmental and coastal zone considerations
- Conduct public outreach to stakeholders, including rider surveys
- Identify potential funding sources and provide cost estimates for future improvements

A cooperative agreement is needed to formalize OCTA's and the City's respective roles, responsibilities, and cost-sharing arrangements. The study is estimated to cost less than \$500,000 and is proposed to be cost-shared equally. OCTA will provide project management, technical oversight, and coordination with regional and state partners. The City will provide local coordination, land-use expertise, and additional technical support.

Fiscal Impact

The cooperative agreement with the City will establish cost-sharing arrangements for the study. The study is estimated to cost less than \$500,000, and staff is seeking state and federal funding for OCTA's share of the study cost.

Next Steps

Pending Board of Directors' (Board) approval, OCTA staff will work with the City to finalize a cooperative agreement and initiate procurement of a consultant to conduct the feasibility study. Once a notice to proceed is issued, the study is expected to take approximately 16 months to complete. A detailed project timeline is provided in Attachment D.

Summary

Board approval is requested to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a cooperative agreement with the City for the NTC Relocation Feasibility Study.

Attachments

- A. Newport Transportation Center - Study Locations Map
- B. Letter from Grace K. Leung, City Manager, City of Newport Beach, to Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Orange County Transportation Authority, dated June 26, 2025
- C. Letter from Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Orange County Transportation Authority, to Grace K. Leung, City Manager, City of Newport Beach, dated August 5, 2025, re: Response to June 26, 2025, Letter Regarding Newport Transportation Center
- D. Feasibility Study Timeline, Newport Transportation Center Potential Relocation

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