



June 16, 2022

To: Legislative and Communications Committee 
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Update and Member Appointments

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to provide feedback on significant transportation issues, help identify opportunities for community input, and serve as a public liaison for the Orange County Transportation Authority. A summary of the committee's activities during the past year and the new member appointment status is provided with this report.

Recommendation

Receive and file the Citizens Advisory Committee status report.

Discussion

In its role as the county transportation commission, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is required by the Public Utilities Code (PUC) 130105 to appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input on transportation projects, programs, services, and outreach activities. The PUC states that the commission shall "appoint...a citizens advisory committee, which membership shall reflect a broad spectrum of interests and all geographic areas of the county." The CAC is structured such that each OCTA Board of Directors (Board) member appoints two citizens to serve, creating a 34-member committee representing diverse interests and geographic areas of Orange County.

To carry out the CAC's mission, ongoing responsibilities include:

- Commenting on significant transportation issues, suggesting possible solutions, and making recommendations when appropriate
- Identifying opportunities for community input

- Recommending mechanisms and methodologies for obtaining public feedback on specific transportation issues
- Serving as a liaison between the public and OCTA

In 2011, the CAC formed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee, which meets quarterly to review items and issues related specifically to active transportation. A Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee was also created in 2017, which meets as needed to review new ideas focused on technological advances and innovations that could help improve Orange County's transportation system.

As an advisory committee, members' comments and suggestions help shape OCTA's services and communications to be responsive and user-friendly to the public. The wide range of viewpoints and interests represented by the membership also provides OCTA with an added sounding board for prospective programs and initiatives.

CAC input is communicated to the Board in a variety of ways. Members' feedback on projects and initiatives is incorporated as programs develop, which is often noted in project staff reports. As direct appointees of the Board, CAC members are also encouraged to communicate directly with their appointing Board Member.

During the past fiscal year, the CAC met four times, three times via teleconference and once in-person in April 2022, to review and provide feedback on a variety of OCTA programs and topics. Key activities for this past year included:

- Acting as OCTA's stakeholder working group for the 2022 Long-Range Transportation Plan
- Providing feedback on the South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study, Mobility Hub Strategy Study, Bus System Restructuring Study, Making Better Connections Study, and State Route-91 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan
- Discussing OCTA's diversity outreach and inclusion efforts
- Reviewing the Attitudinal and Awareness Survey results
- Discussing the progress of the OC Streetcar Project and the Interstate-405 Improvement Project
- Receiving an overview of the Measure M2 (M2) Environmental Mitigation Program and M2 Next 10 Delivery Plan
- Reviewing the projects and programs included in OCTA's 2022 budget
- Receiving updates on sales tax forecasts

Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee

During the past year, the CAC Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee, formerly Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, met two times to give feedback on ways to better incorporate active transportation as an alternative mode of travel, and to emphasize the need to practice and provide safe transportation methods for adults and youth. The subcommittee also modernized its name to Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee and received updates on the Bike Gap Closure Study, Safe Routes to School Program, and Bike Month.

A highlight of the past year for the subcommittee was the Orange County Electric Bicycle (E-bike) Panel. E-bikes are playing a growing role in the Orange County transportation network. OCTA staff coordinated the panel, which included Orange County E-bike company executives and founders for a discussion with the subcommittee. There was a robust dialogue with Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee members regarding the use of E-bikes as a first and last mile transportation option as well as industry and safety trends.

Member Appointments

CAC members serve staggered two-year terms from July through June, so each year every Board Member has one CAC member whose term expires on June 30. Committee members can serve unlimited terms. In February, each committee member with an expiring term was contacted to see if they were interested in continuing to serve. For recruitment purposes, announcements were made seeking potential applicants on OCTA's blog and social media. In addition, information was sent to the media, city contacts, and local organizations to publish and include in their newsletters.

Beginning in March, Board Members and their staff were contacted with recruitment information, including existing CAC members interested in reappointment and member resignations. The recruitment is now complete, and Board Members have either reappointed existing members or appointed new members to begin service on July 1 2022, or have appointments pending (Attachment A).

To show OCTA's appreciation to members who are leaving the committee, resolutions of appreciation have been prepared to thank them for their contribution.

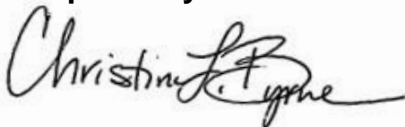
Summary

The CAC plays a vital role in OCTA's efforts to incorporate public feedback into the agency's transportation decision-making process. CAC members have contributed substantially to the work of OCTA in the past year. With the recruitment process for fiscal year 2022-23 now complete, OCTA Board Members have either reappointed existing CAC members or appointed new members. Members who are not continuing on the committee will receive resolutions of appreciation to thank them for their efforts.

Attachment

- A. Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee Roster Fiscal Year 2022-23

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