



**May 5, 2025**

**To:** Executive Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** Cooperative Agreement with the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department

### **Overview**

On July 13, 2020, the Board of Directors approved a five-year agreement with the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department, to provide Transit Police Services. The current agreement expires June 30, 2025, and a new agreement is necessary to ensure continuity of services provided. Consistent with prior agreements, the term of the proposed agreement is for five years and includes the budget for services to be provided only for fiscal year 2025-26. Amendments for each subsequent fiscal year budget will be brought forth to the Board of Directors for consideration on an annual basis.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-5-4051 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department, for a five-year term effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, in the initial amount of \$15,523,166 to fund transit police services provided from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030.

### **Discussion**

The County of Orange (County), Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD), has provided Transit Police Services (TPS) for the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) since 1993. These services include fixed-route service, right-of-way rail support, and special services. On July 13, 2020, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) approved an agreement with OCSD for five years to provide TPS through June 30, 2025. A new agreement is required to ensure provision of these services continues.

The budget for each fiscal year of the agreement is developed in March of the preceding FY. The OCSD submits the budget estimates to OCTA during this

period for review and concurrence on the level of service provided. The final estimate provided by OCSD and included in the proposed FY 2025-26 budget for TPS, is \$15,523,166. This represents an increase of \$2,863,730 (22.62 percent) from the prior year and includes \$15,226,709 for fixed-route services, right-of-way rail support, OC Streetcar support, and general services, as well as \$296,457 for special services. The new contract establishes full implementation of the TPS OC Streetcar team as part of the regular services. On April 7, 2025, the Board approved step one of the implementation of these services with the approval of one sergeant and two deputies for the pre-revenue testing phase. The new contract includes both this action as well as the addition of four deputies for full implementation of TPS for OC Streetcar.

The majority of the cost increases are associated with the following: addition of the full implementation of services for the OC Streetcar team, which includes six deputy sheriff positions and one sergeant position as requested by OCTA, associated additional personnel equipment and overhead for the new positions, and an increase in OCSD salary and benefits of 4.97 percent over last year's contract. The six additional deputy sheriffs will have the primary responsibility of patrolling the streetcars, platforms, and alignment to maintain a visible, dedicated presence of law enforcement, reduce pedestrian use of the alignment, and respond to reports of crimes. The sergeant position is required to ensure the supervision of deputies for all shifts. It will be essential for the OC Streetcar team to work cooperatively with the Santa Ana and Garden Grove police departments.

Similar to the current agreement, the proposed new agreement includes provision for special services, which are jointly funded with Measure M2 (M2) and external grant sources. Special services include patrol of OCTA-owned environmental mitigation properties, three explosive detection canine and bomb technician handler teams, transit security overtime for visual intermodal prevention and response (VIPR), and counter-terrorism team (CTT) activities deployed to patrol or support high security risk events. Patrol costs will be subsidized by M2. VIPR operations are funded by the Transit Security Grant Program, totaling \$116,600. In 2024, the Department of Homeland Security defunded the Transportation Security Administration Explosives Detection K-9 Program. It was determined this program is vital to maintaining the safety and security of the OCTA operating environment and the cost of the program was absorbed in the regular operating expenses.

In addition, OCSD provides countywide services such as the hazardous devices squad, special weapons and tactics team, Special Victims Unit, and the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center. OCSD deputies assigned to TPS carry full police authorities, allowing them to conduct investigations and

make misdemeanor and felony arrests. Services provided by OCSD are listed in Attachment A.

**Fiscal Impact**

Funds to support the services to be provided under this agreement are included in the OCTA Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget. The budget is comprised of four major areas: fixed-route bus service for \$10,973,027, right-of-way rail support for \$1,969,457, and \$2,284,225 for OC Streetcar support. Lastly, there is \$296,457 budgeted for special services, which include VIPR, CTT, seasonal special requests, and M2 patrol services.

**Summary**

OCTA contracts with OCSD for TPS. In order to maintain these services, staff recommends the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-5-4051 between OCTA and the County of Orange, OCSD, for a five-year term effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030 and approve the initial amount of \$15,523,166.

**Attachments**

- A. County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department Services Provided
- B. Patrol Areas

**Prepared by:**



Matt Ankley  
Manager, Security and Emergency  
Preparedness  
(714) 560-5961

**Approved by:**



Jennifer L. Bergener  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
(714) 560-5462