

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 12  
1750 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 100  
SANTA ANA, CA 92705  
PHONE (657) 328-6000  
FAX (657) 328-6522  
TTY 711

[www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12](http://www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12)



October 16, 2023

Mr. Angel Garfio  
Orange County Transportation Authority  
550 South Main Street  
Orange, CA 92868

### **Re: OCTA Congestion Management Program Report**

Dear Mr. Garfio:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of OCTA's Draft 2023 Congestion Management Program Report (CMP). We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, equitable, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the document.

1. Caltrans recognizes our responsibility to assist communities of color and under-served communities by removing barriers to provide a more equitable transportation system for all. The Department firmly embraces racial equity, inclusion, and diversity. These values are foundational to achieving our vision of a cleaner, safer, and more accessible and more connected transportation system. Please consider including a discussion on equity the 2023 Draft CMP.
2. Caltrans supports OCTA's efforts towards improving the County's Active Transportation and Complete Streets infrastructure. Please coordinate with Caltrans on any efforts and projects, especially those that intersect or adjacent to State Right-of-Way.
3. Caltrans supports OCTA's operation and improvement of the County's transit system. Caltrans supports the additional vanpool and micro transit services that OCTA provides. Ensure that current and future transit services are equitable to the local population they serve. Please continue to coordinate with District staff on future transit programs and efforts.

4. Caltrans supports first-/last-mile connections, including active transportation connections to transit. Continue to coordinate with Caltrans to add and improve first-/last-mile connections, as this encourages people to utilize alternative modes of transportation and improves regional connectivity.
5. Caltrans recommends OCTA work with other regional transportation authorities to develop a plan for inter-regional bus transit utilizing planned and existing managed lane facilities to travel from one region to another with real time commuter information. Continue to coordinate with Caltrans on the California Integrated Bus Study (CIBS), State Rail Plan, and California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP).
6. As the overseers of the State's Grant Programs, Caltrans welcomes the opportunity in supporting OCTA and other local partners to fund projects that address and improve local and regional sustainable, equitable, and multi-modal transportation deficiencies.
7. Page 11 of the CMP states, "Local agencies are encouraged to coordinate with the Caltrans Local Development/Intergovernmental Review Branch early in the development process". Please change it to "Local agencies are encouraged to coordinate with the Caltrans Local Development Review Branch early in the development process" to reflect changes to the Program.
8. The CMP does not include analysis of congestion related to goods movement/freight. Please consider providing a discussion on goods/freight mobility and freight parking. Please refer to the California Freight Mobility Plan 2023 for additional information.
9. On page 12, Saturday count has not been included. Capacity of 1700 per lane per hour reference may be included.
10. Please provide a reference for the 2022 Automatic Passenger Counter data mentioned on page 24.
11. Caltrans recommends that OCTA add Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) evaluation and assessment methodology.
12. Caltrans recommends having an appendix that lists VMT for each freeway in Orange County for planning to establish a baseline for adding/enhancing managed lane facilities throughout the county.

13. The Intersection Capacity Utilization (ICU) methodology is based on Volume/Capacity (V/C). During the AM/PM periods, traffic is significant, and the volume/throughput drops because of congestion. This will result in an unrealistic assessment of Level of Service (LOS) throughout the system. A good example of it is on Figure-3. Irvine Center Drive shows all intersections are performing at LOS A during peak periods.
14. Page 5 of the draft CMP, State Legislation, indicates "The LOS must be measured using a method that is consistent with the Highway Capacity Manual." Based on the paragraph above, it is recommended to provide a queuing column for Figure 4. It is essential to add any queuing deficiency to the deficiency plan and needs for improvement list.
15. Intersection LOS is not consistent with traffic studies performed on existing freeway/highway operational improvement projects.
16. Major freeway ramps are impacted by the traffic congestion and roadway deficiencies on local roads. Proper assessment and improvements of the local roadways is essential to the performance of the freeway system. An example is Sand Canyon Road between I-5 and I-405. This and some similar critical local roads are not included in the CMP list.
17. The Congestion Management Program Highway System map (Figure 2), does not appear to analyze the southern and southeastern part of Orange County. Major new development projects are underway in this area. Future improvements to local arterial system should be considered too address anticipated trips.

Caltrans is committed to working with OCTA and all stakeholders to provide a safe, equitable, efficient, and sustainable transportation system to the public. If you have any questions, please contact me at (657) 328-6164, or at [Scott.Shelley@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Shelley@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Scott Shelley  
District Branch Chief  
Regional-Local Development Review-Climate Change-Transit Planning

c: Lan Zhou, Deputy District Director of Planning & Local Assistance Caltrans District 12  
Irene Hou, Office Chief of Transportation Planning Caltrans District 12