



**May 9, 2019**

**To:** Transit Committee  
**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
**Subject:** Project V – Mission Viejo Route 182 Update

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell Johnson", is written over the "From:" line of the header.

**Overview**

A Project V ridership update was provided to the Transit Committee on February 14, 2019. The report included information that the City of Mission Viejo's Route 182 service had failed to achieve its minimum performance standard and that cancellation processes had been initiated. The Transit Committee directed staff to follow up with the City of Mission Viejo related to route performance, options, and next steps. Recommendations are provided for review and action.

**Recommendations**

- A. Authorize an extension of Project V funding for the City of Mission Viejo's Route 182 service subject to meeting the required minimum service standard of ten boardings per revenue vehicle hour by June 30, 2020, and the City of Mission Viejo agreeing to take on operations and administration of the service starting by October 2019.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a new cooperative agreement with the City of Mission of Viejo to implement these changes.
- C. Direct staff to continue reporting on the City of Mission Viejo's Route 182 performance as part of regularly scheduled Project V ridership updates.
- D. Cancel the funding extension, effective no later than August 15, 2020, if the City of Mission Viejo-led revised service fails to achieve the required minimum service standard by June 30, 2020.

***Background***

At the February 14, 2019 Transit Committee (Committee), a Measure M2 Project V ridership update was provided. This update included information that the City of Mission Viejo's (City) Route 182 service had failed to meet its year two required minimum performance standard of ten boardings per revenue vehicle hour (B/RVH). The Committee was also informed that a service cancellation notice had been issued to the City. In response, the City expressed concern with the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) notice of funding cancellation, and also highlighted several areas of concern with respect to OCTA's delivery of the service, including accuracy of ridership data and OCTA's no-standee policy.

As a result, Committee members directed staff to follow up with the City regarding these concerns. On March 18, 2019, OCTA's executive staff met with City executives. At that meeting, OCTA acknowledged that there had been challenges associated with providing timely ridership data, on-time performance, and ongoing bus driver shortages. Due to the emergence of these unanticipated challenges, it was agreed that OCTA would submit a proposal from the City to restructure its service for Board of Director's (Board) consideration.

***Discussion***

The City submitted a proposal for revised service on April 2, 2019. OCTA has completed its review and generally concurs that the City's proposed changes could increase the service's overall productivity. However, it is also recommended that additional lower-productivity trips (i.e., the last trips in the morning and afternoon) also be removed.

Given this conclusion and the desire to ameliorate the issues raised by the City, staff is recommending that the Board adopt a one-time policy exception to the Project V's two-year minimum performance standard specified in the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines, with two caveats, which follow:

- The City agreeing to take over management (including securing and maintaining vehicles) operations, and administration of this service by October 2019; and
- If by June 30, 2020, the proposed service changes have not resulted in the service achieving and maintaining ten B/RVH, then OCTA's Project V funding for the service will be cancelled, no later than August 15, 2020, with no further action.

If the Board approves this recommendation, OCTA will work with the City to complete the following next steps.

- Work with the City to negotiate and execute a new cooperative agreement to implement Recommendation A;
- Support the City, as appropriate, as it completes a procurement process for a new service provider;
- Provide technical input and support, as appropriate, as the City initiates service with a new service provider; and
- Continue ridership reporting to the OCTA Committee and Board.

If the City is successful in achieving and continuing to meet the required minimum service standard of ten B/RVH, then the service would be allowed to continue to operate through fiscal year 2022-23, based upon the City's original application and award.

**Summary**

The Orange County Transportation Authority is recommending that the Board of Directors adopt a policy exception, which would provide an additional year for the City of Mission Viejo to meet its minimum required performance standard, subject to the provisions specified in this report. If these recommendations are ultimately approved by the Board of Directors, staff will begin working with the City of Mission Viejo to implement appropriate next steps for Route 182 service.

**Attachment**

None.

**Prepared by:**



Joseph Alcock  
Section Manager, Local Programs  
(714) 560-5372

**Approved by:**



Kia Mortazavi  
Executive Director, Planning  
714 (560)-5741