



June 18, 2020

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.

Background

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 addition, the CAC has formed a Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee, which meets quarterly to review items and issues related specifically to active transportation, and a Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee, which meets as needed to review new ideas focused on technological advances and innovations that could help improve Orange County's transportation system.

Discussion

As an advisory body, 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. Director Greg Winterbottom has attended meetings, providing guidance and sharing his insights with the committee.

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. Additionally, Director Greg Winterbottom relays CAC feedback to the Board as appropriate in addition, the CAC chairman is invited to share the committee's activities and recommendations with the Board annually.

During the past year, the CAC met three times to review and provide feedback on a variety of OCTA programs and topics. Key activities for this past year included:

- Discussing OCTA's diversity outreach efforts and reviewing projects and programs currently underway
- Commenting on OCTA's state and federal legislative platform
- Discussing the progress of OC Streetcar and Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project
- Providing feedback on the Beach Boulevard Corridor Study and Bristol Corridor Study
- Discussing transportation trends and OCTA's innovation efforts with Chief Executive Officer Darrell Johnson
- Reviewing the projects and programs included in OCTA's fiscal year 2019- 2020 budget
- Receiving updates on sales tax forecasts

- Following up on the status and metrics of OC Flex, Metrolink, and OC Bus 360° efforts to grow bus ridership
- Providing feedback on the Transportation Needs Assessment and Next 10 Delivery Plan
- Reviewing options for Future Express Lane Corridors in Orange County

CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee

During the past year, the CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee met two times to give feedback on ways to better incorporate cycling as an alternative mode of transportation, and to emphasize the need to consider bicycle lanes and cyclist and pedestrian safety when making transportation improvements throughout Orange County.

The subcommittee reviewed and provided feedback on a variety of topics, including the May 2019 Bike Month Report, the City of Santa Ana Dockless Scooter Pilot Program, and Active Transportation Funding opportunities. The subcommittee also gave feedback on active transportation programs such as the Safe Routes to School Action Plan and Go Human: Beach Boulevard Open Streets. They commented on capital projects such as State Route 55 (SR-55) and the I-405 Improvement Project.

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. In addition, 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.

The opportunity to reappoint interested members for an additional term, along with resignations, was presented to each Board Member and their staff starting in February. The recruitment is now complete, and Board Members have either reappointed existing members or appointed new members to begin service on July 1, 2020, or have appointments pending (Attachment A).

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

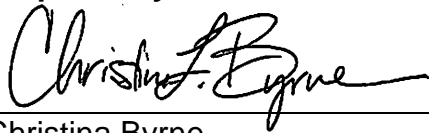
Summary

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 2020-21 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

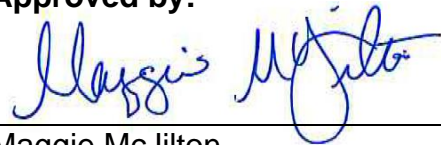
- A. Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee
Roster Fiscal Year 2020-21

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