



**June 18, 2020**

**To:** Legislative and Communications Committee

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

**Subject:** Proposed Schedule for the Orange County Transportation Authority's 2021-22 State and Federal Legislative Platforms

### **Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority is preparing legislative platforms for the upcoming sessions of the California State Legislature and United States Congress beginning in 2021. The legislative platforms communicate comprehensive legislative and regulatory priorities that provide direction to staff, advocates, and legislative representatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

### **Recommendation**

Approve the preparation plan and timeline for the Orange County Transportation Authority State and Federal Legislative Platforms.

### **Discussion**

Prior to each legislative session, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Government Relations staff collects proposals and input from the OCTA Board of Directors (Board); OCTA division directors and department managers; OCTA advisory groups; the Orange County legislative delegation; national, regional, and state transportation agencies; interest groups and related associations; cities and the County of Orange; interested members of the public; and various other stakeholders. Staff evaluate and consolidate these proposals into a framework document that guides OCTA's legislative activities. Working drafts are first submitted to the Board through the committee process. After receiving committee input, staff prepare final documents for the committee that, if approved, go to the full Board for adoption.

Based on the strategic initiatives adopted as part of the OCTA Strategic Plan, the State and Federal Legislative platforms provide guidance on state and federal statutory, regulatory, and administrative policies for staff and its legislative advocates to pursue in the subsequent legislative sessions. Timely adoption of the platforms allows time to draft bill language, secure bill authors, introduce legislation, recommend advocacy positions on bills, and develop support for OCTA projects and funding priorities.

Once the draft 2021-22 State and Federal Legislative platforms are prepared, the documents will be reviewed by the Legislative and Communications Committee and then the full Board. After extensive circulation and revision, the State and Federal Legislative platforms will be presented for final adoption at the Board meeting on November 23, 2020.

The proposed schedule for the 2021-22 State and Federal Legislative platforms is included as Attachment A. This schedule is subject to change based on both the results of the November 2020 elections and the ongoing impacts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Due to uncertainty stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, a special session of the State Legislature may be called later this year to take up budget revisions. Similarly, Congress needs to act on surface transportation reauthorization legislation because the current authorizing bill expires at the end of September. Staff will continue to provide updates should these extenuating circumstances impact the platform development process.

On November 25, 2019, the Board adopted the 2019-20 State and Federal Legislative platforms, which are included as attachments B and C, respectively.

**Summary**

The proposed timeline and process for the preparation of the 2021-22 State and Federal Legislative platforms are presented for approval.

**Attachments**

- A. Proposed Schedule for the Orange County Transportation Authority's 2021-22 State and Federal Legislative Platforms
- B. State Legislative Platform 2019-20, Orange County Transportation Authority, Adopted on November 25, 2019
- C. Federal Legislative Platform 2019-20, Orange County Transportation Authority, Adopted on November 25, 2019

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