



***April 9, 2020***

**To:** Transit Committee

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

**Subject:** Grant Award Acceptance for the 2019 and 2020 Orange County Fair Express Bus Service

***Overview***

The Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee awarded the Orange County Transportation Authority \$468,298 in competitive Major Event Center Transportation Program funding. The grant award will support the 2019 and 2020 Orange County Fair Express Bus Service.

***Recommendation***

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to accept the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee Major Event Center Transportation Program award, and to negotiate and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

***Background***

The Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC), in partnership with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), makes grants available to local agencies for programs to seek cost-effective opportunities to reduce automobile trips and associated emissions by shifting attendees of major events out of their personal automobile, and onto zero and near-zero emission transportation alternatives.

On April 5, 2019, MSRC made available \$6.5 million in 2019-21 Major Event Center Transportation Program (Program) funding. The Program seeks out major event center venues located within the SCAQMD region that experience high levels of traffic congestion that are inefficiently served by public transit, and partner with transportation providers to develop and implement new or expanded programs to attract patrons to reduce the number of personal vehicles traveling to the center.

New requirements for this program year included the utilization of the cleanest, commercially available zero and/or near-zero emission vehicles to implement the event center transportation service, and a funding limitation to two years of consecutive service. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) staff submitted an application in July 2019, requesting \$468,298 to support operations of the Orange County Fair Express Bus Service for the 2019 and 2020 seasons. OCTA continued to work with MSRC staff after the 2019 OC Fair concluded to seek grant approval. On September 6, 2019, SCAQMD approved OCTA's request for \$468,298 to support operations of the OC Fair Express Bus Service for the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

### ***Discussion***

OCTA successfully delivered the 2019 OC Fair Express service, which is allowable and can be reimbursed under the MSRC Guidelines. The grant requires an OCTA in-kind match contribution of 50 percent for the 2019 season, and 55 percent for the 2020 season. The required OCTA in-kind match is \$517,813 for the two seasons combined. Attachment A provides the grant awards for the 2019 and 2020 OC Fair Express Bus Service.

Staff continued to work with MSRC staff after the 2019 OC Fair concluded to ensure that OCTA would remain eligible for reimbursement of eligible costs. This delayed execution of the contract and associated grant-related agreements.

The Program funds continue to be available through March 2021, and staff plans to submit an application to support operations of the 2021 OC Fair season early next year, if funding remains available. Consistent with the new program requirements, OCTA was eligible to apply for funding to support only two years of the service.

Staff is requesting the Board of Directors (Board) authorize acceptance of this grant, and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with MSRC, allowing OCTA to seek reimbursement for the costs for the 2019 OC Fair Express, and move forward with 2020 service.

### ***Summary***

The MSRC awarded OCTA \$468,298 to support operations of the OC Fair Express Bus Service for the 2019 and 2020 seasons. Board authorization is requested to receive the grant, and provide an in-kind match contribution of \$517,813.

***Attachment***

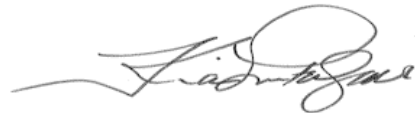
A. 2019 and 2020 OC Fair Express Bus Service Estimated Cost

**Prepared by:**



Jennifer Haith Farinas  
Senior Transportation  
Funding Analyst  
(714) 560-5392

**Approved by:**



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