



April 8, 2026

To: Technical Steering Committee

From: Orange County Transportation Authority Staff

Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – 2026 Call for Projects Programming Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority issued the 2026 annual Measure M2 Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Regional Capacity Program and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program call for projects in September 2025. This call for projects makes grant funding available for regional roadway capacity and signal synchronization projects countywide. A list of projects recommended for funding is presented for review and approval.

Recommendation(s)

- A. Recommend Board of Directors approval of the award of \$55.67 million in 2026 Regional Capacity Program (Project O) funds to eight local jurisdiction projects.
- B. Recommend Board of Directors approval of the award of \$12.29 million in 2026 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P) funds to six local jurisdiction projects.

Background

The Regional Capacity Program (RCP), Project O, is the Measure M2 (M2) competitive funding program through which the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) supports streets and roads capital projects. The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (RTSSP), Project P, is the M2 competitive program which provides funding for signal synchronization projects.

Both programs are included in the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP). The CTFP allocates funds through an annual competitive call for projects (call) based on a common set of guidelines and scoring criteria that are developed in collaboration with the OCTA Technical Advisory Committee

(TAC), which is comprised of representatives from the 35 local jurisdictions. The guidelines and the call are ultimately approved for release by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board).

The CTFP guidelines for the 2026 call were approved by the Board on September 8, 2025. At that meeting, the Board also authorized issuance of the current call. The average funding award, based on the cash flow that was prepared at that time, was reported as approximately \$42 million annually, with additional funding subject to availability. The deadline to submit projects for consideration through this call was November 20, 2025.

Discussion

RCP

Through the RCP program, nine applications were submitted to OCTA from seven local jurisdictions requesting a total of \$97.05 million in RCP funding (see Attachment A). During the application process, one project application was withdrawn by the local jurisdiction for further refinements, reducing the overall requested funding this call to \$94.40 million. The remaining eight applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency, adherence to the guidelines, and overall M2 program objectives. Applications were evaluated and ranked based on the scoring criteria identified in the guidelines. Staff worked with the local jurisdictions to address technical issues such as application scoring corrections, scope of work clarifications, and refinement of final project funding requests.

Eight projects are being recommended to receive \$55.66 million (inflationary adjustments added, as appropriate). The recommended amount differs from what was originally requested due to removal of ineligible costs listed in the applications, reduction in project cost estimates as provided by the local jurisdiction, and adjustments to local match contributions by the local jurisdiction. The revised recommended grant amount reflects only the project scope components and costs that have been determined to be eligible or potentially eligible per the guidelines. Attachment B provides more detail on the programming recommendations.

The recommended M2 RCP funding will support RCP projects in the cities of Anaheim, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, and San Juan Capistrano, and the County of Orange. Of the eight recommended projects, six will provide arterial capacity improvements, including completion of a new roadway to close a network gap, while two will provide enhancements to freeway-to-arterial/street transitions. Implementation of these projects in aggregate is anticipated to produce notable

congestion-reducing benefits in Orange County, while enhancing the arterial system overall.

RTSSP

With respect to the RTSSP, OCTA received seven applications requesting a total of \$12.75 million in funding. During the technical review process, one project was deemed ineligible to compete in this cycle, due to not meeting the CTFP Guidelines that requires projects to be included with Local Signal Synchronization Plans. With the removal of the ineligible application, the total requested funding for this call was reduced to \$12.29 million. Staff worked with the remaining local jurisdictions to address technical issues related to construction unit cost refinements, as well as project scope of work clarifications. Attachment A has more detail on the submitted projects.

Upon completion of these efforts, staff’s recommendation is to program \$12.29 million to fund six projects. All six of the recommended RTSSP projects are anticipated to be initiated by the local jurisdiction in fiscal year 2026-27. Together, these projects will improve throughput on six arterial roadways in the cities of Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Dana Point, Fullerton, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Placentia, Santa Ana, Tustin, and Yorba Linda and the County of Orange. Additional details for the recommended RTSSP projects are provided in Attachment C.

The table below provides an overall summary of the funding recommendations:

2026 CTFP Call Summary (\$ in millions)			
	RCP	RTSSP	Total
Number of Applications Recommended for Approval	8	6	14
Amount Recommended for Approval (escalated)	\$55.67	\$12.29	\$67.96

Recommendations presented in this staff report are consistent with the 2026 guidelines approved by the Board with one exception.

The funding request of \$38.12 million for the Cow Camp Road Completion project, which extends Cow Camp to Ortega Highway, does not adhere to the funding target or the tiering limitation. However, in this call cycle, all eligible RCP and RTSSP projects and project components that were submitted for consideration are recommended for funding, totaling \$67.96 million.

This increased funding will support 14 well-scoring projects, with an average score of 60, demonstrating the regional significance of the proposed improvements in this call cycle.

It should be noted that the overall funding recommendation for this call exceeds the typical \$42 to \$45 million range for both programs, as recent cash flow assumptions support this higher funding level for this call cycle. Despite the programming of additional funding in this cycle, future calls will continue to be issued at approximately \$45 to \$50 million per call cycle, as originally planned.

If approved by the Technical Steering Committee, TAC, and Board, these new projects will be incorporated into master funding agreements between OCTA and the appropriate local jurisdictions; and as these projects advance, staff will continue to monitor their status and project delivery through the semi-annual review process.

Summary

The proposed programming recommendations for projects in the RCP and RTSSP have been developed by staff. Funding for 14 projects totaling \$67.95 million in M2 funds is proposed. Staff is seeking TSC approval to advance these programming recommendations, as presented, to the OCTA TAC for further consideration and ultimately to the Board for approval.

Attachment(s)

- A. 2026 Measure M2 Call for Projects – Applications Received
- B. 2026 M2 Regional Capacity Program (Project O) Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations
- C. 2026 M2 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P) Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations