



April 9, 2020

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: 2020 Measure M2 Community-Based Transit Circulators (Project V)
Call for Projects Programming Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority issued the 2020 Measure M2 Project V call for projects for community-based transit circulators on October 14, 2020. Applications have been received and scored consistent with the Board of Directors' approved Comprehensive Transportation Fund Programs Project V Guidelines. Projects recommended for funding are presented for review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve programming recommendations for Project V funding, in an amount not to exceed \$9,043,613, plus inflationary adjustments, for six local agency projects submitted under the capital and operating reserve categories.
- B. Approve the programming recommendations for Project V funding, in an amount not to exceed \$177,900, for three local agency projects submitted under the planning category.
- C. Authorize staff to execute cooperative funding agreements with local agencies.
- D. Authorize staff to negotiate and execute lease agreements with interested local agencies, for the use of existing Project V-funded (and Orange County Transportation Authority-owned) vehicles.

Background

The Community-Based Transit Circulator Program (Project V) under Measure M (M2) provides funding to jurisdictions seeking to implement local

transit services that complement regional bus and rail services while also meeting local needs in areas not adequately served by regional transit.

In 2019, at the direction of the Board of Directors (Board), staff polled local agencies to determine if there was sufficient interest to support a 2020 Project V call for projects (call). Based upon these efforts, it was determined that there was strong support for a 2020 call. On October 14, 2019, the Board approved revised Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Project V Guidelines (Guidelines), and directed staff to issue a call making \$9 million available to fund projects that met Board-specified 2020 call objectives.

These objectives include:

- Continuing to fund previously awarded successful projects that were expiring,
- Encouraging and supporting new special event or seasonal shuttle services,
- Encouraging shared-ride service options through promoting shared-ride hailing services, and
- Encouraging new and innovative services that would meet Project V's goals and performance standards by providing funding for transit planning studies.

Discussion

The 2020 Project V call opened on October 14, 2019, and applications were due on December 12, 2019. Thirteen Project V applications were submitted by 12 local agencies, requesting approximately \$17.5 million in funding. Applications consisted of funding requests for planning studies, capital, initial marketing, and operations funding to support various service concepts, including extensions of existing fixed-route services, shared-ride hailing and commuter services, special event, weekend, seasonal, and microtransit services.

A total of eight local agencies submitted nine applications, requesting approximately \$17.2 million in Project V funds to either implement new or extend existing Project V-funded services. There were four additional applications for planning projects, which requested the remaining funding and are discussed below.

The nine service-related applications were reviewed for eligibility, adherence to Guidelines requirements, and consistency with 2020 call objectives. Six of the

nine applications were deemed to be consistent with these criteria and recommended for funding (Attachment A). In total, \$9,043,613 plus inflationary adjustments, is requested to be made available to support the programming recommendations identified in Attachment A.

It should be noted that of the applications recommended for funding, three included capital requests for vehicles. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) reached out to each of these local agencies to inquire if they were interested in leasing existing Project V-funded (and OCTA-owned) vehicles, as a cost-effective alternative to new capital vehicle purchase/lease requests.

- The City of La Habra expressed interest in leasing two vehicles for its various special events which occur on weekends in April, October, and December.
- The City of Dana Point (Dana Point) also indicated that it was potentially interested in an OCTA vehicle but expressed concern with respect to potential capacity constraints due to the size of the OCTA vehicle. As a result of the impacts on staff resources related to the Corona Virus (COVID-19), this question was not resolved at the time of the publishing of this staff report. As such, the programming recommendation for Dana Point includes funding for a replacement trolley, which could be granted with OCTA Board approval, contingent upon the emergence of capacity constraints and the results of a cost-benefit analysis.
- The City of San Juan Capistrano (San Juan Capistrano), which requested funding for a spare or back-up vehicle, did not express interest in using an OCTA vehicle. As such, San Juan Capistrano's request was not advanced in the programming recommendations identified in Attachment A.

Staff is requesting Board authority to negotiate and execute leases for the existing OCTA-owned Project V vehicles and, if appropriate, provide funding to Dana Point for a replacement vehicle.

With respect to transit planning grant applications, OCTA received four applications through which the cities of Anaheim, Newport Beach, Orange, and the County of Orange requesting approximately \$237,900 for transit planning activities. These applications were also reviewed for eligibility, adherence to Guidelines requirements, and consistency with 2020 call objectives, and in total, staff is recommending that \$177,900 be awarded to support three applications, which are identified in Attachment B. More specific details on all of the projects being recommended for funding are provided in attachments C and D.

It should also be noted that funds awarded to support operations and maintenance of Project V services are subject to minimum performance requirements, which are identified in the Guidelines. Awarded local agencies are also required to report to OCTA quarterly on ridership productivity.

Next Steps

If the programming recommendations identified in Attachments A and Attachment B are approved by the Board, staff will develop cooperative agreements with local agencies, which will allow OCTA to reimburse awarded local agencies for program costs consistent with Board policy. Staff will also develop lease agreements, as appropriate, with the cities of La Habra, and Dana Point, for the use of existing Project V-funded (and OCTA-owned) vehicles.

Project implementation and delivery will be monitored through the M2 semi-annual review process and quarterly ridership updates to the Board, with the next Project V ridership productivity report scheduled to occur this summer.

Summary

Proposed programming recommendations for the 2020 Project V call for projects have been developed by staff. Funding for nine projects, at up to \$9,221,513 in Measure M Project V funds, is being recommended for Board of Directors' approval, which will result in the initiation of and/or extension of six services and the completion of three new transit planning studies. Authorization is also requested to execute cooperative agreements and lease agreements, as appropriate, with local agencies to support implementation of the recommended proposed projects.

Attachments

- A. 2020 Measure M2 Community-Based Transit Circulators (Project V) Call for Projects, Programming Recommendations for Capital and O&M Applications
- B. 2020 Measure M2 Community-Based Transit Circulators (Project V) Call for Projects, Programming Recommendations for Planning Applications
- C. 2020 Measure M2 Community-Based Transit Circulators (Project V) Call for Projects, Proposed Service Descriptions for Recommended Applications
- D. 2020 Measure M2 Community-Based Transit Circulators (Project V) Call for Projects, Service Maps

Prepared by:



Alfonso Hernandez
Transportation Funding Analyst, Senior
(714) 560-5363

Approved By:



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