




November 14, 2024

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Acceptance of Grant Award from Department of the Homeland Security Transit Security Grant Program

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority has been awarded \$116,600 in Federal Emergency Management Agency funding awarded by the Department of Homeland Security through the Transit Security Grant Program. Recommendations for acceptance of these funds are presented for Board of Directors' review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to accept the award of \$116,600 in Federal Emergency Management Agency funding awarded by the Department of Homeland Security through the Transit Security Grant Program and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the Department of Homeland Security.
- B. Authorize staff to make all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program, as well as execute any necessary agreements to facilitate the recommendation above.

Background

On April 16, 2024, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) made available the fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), which provided \$83,700,000 to eligible public transit systems to promote sustainable, risk-based efforts to protect critical transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies.

The TSGP is one of four grant programs that constitute the DHS focus on transportation infrastructure security activities. It is part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the DHS to secure

the nation's critical infrastructure. For FY 2023-24, the DHS focused on critical information sharing and collaboration to build a national culture of preparedness and protection against terrorism.

On June 24, 2024, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) submitted an application requesting support for the Visible Intermodal Protection and Response (VIPR) Project, which aims to prevent and deter acts of violence and terrorism against, on, and around OCTA's transit systems. On August 23, 2024, the DHS formally announced that OCTA was awarded \$116,600 in TSGP funding for the VIPR Project, which will support one year of additional Transit Police Services patrols at transit facilities, railroad right-of-way, buses, and trains.

Discussion

The DHS award to OCTA of \$116,600 in TSGP funding represents 100 percent of the total cost of implementing the VIPR Project for one year.

The VIPR Project is designed to present a visible presence and ability to respond to the public on the transit system to deter terrorist acts, which may potentially interrupt terrorist pre-planning activities targeted towards soft-targets and crowded places. Periodic VIPR operations coordinated by OCTA's Security and Emergency Preparedness Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Department Transit Police Services, under contract to OCTA, will show the public that the transit system is patrolled on a regular basis, deter terrorist threats, and lower the likelihood of a successful terrorist attack.

Staff is requesting the Board of Directors (Board) authorize acceptance of this grant and to further authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a contract with the DHS, allowing OCTA to seek reimbursement for the costs of the project.

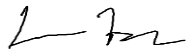
Summary

The DHS awarded OCTA \$116,600 in TSGP funding, representing 100 percent of the total cost of implementing the VIPR Project for one year. Board authorization is requested to accept the grant and enter into a contract with the DHS to seek reimbursement for the cost of the VIPR Project.

Attachment

None.

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