



May 4, 2020

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell E. Johnson", is positioned to the right of the "From:" line.

Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – 2020 Call for Projects Programming Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority issued the 2020 annual Measure M2 Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – Regional Capacity Program and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program call for projects in August 2019. This call for projects made available up to \$40 million in Measure M2 competitive grant funding for regional roadway capacity and signal synchronization projects countywide. A list of projects recommended for funding is presented for review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the award of \$23.4 million in 2020 Measure M2 Regional Capacity Program (Project O) funds to eight local agency projects.
- B. Approve the award of \$12.1 million in 2020 Measure M2 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P) funds to six local agency 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 to relieve congestion. The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (RTSSP) (Project P) is the M2 competitive program, which provides funding for traffic 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 includes representatives of

all of Orange County's 35 local agencies and is ultimately approved by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board). The guidelines for the 2020 call were approved by the Board on August 12, 2019. At that meeting, the Board also authorized issuance of the current call, making available up to \$40 million in M2 competitive funds to support regional roadway capacity and traffic signal synchronization projects throughout Orange County.

Discussion

RCP

OCTA received eight applications requesting a total of \$26.6 million in RCP funding (Attachment A). All applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency, adherence to the guidelines, and compliance with M2 Program objectives. Applications were evaluated and ranked based on the scoring criteria identified in the approved program guidelines. During the review process, staff worked with local agencies to address technical issues such as corrections to the applications, scope clarifications, and refinement of final project funding requests.

Based upon these reviews, Attachment B includes programming recommendations consistent with the 2020 CTFP Guidelines. This recommendation provides \$23.4 million (with inflationary adjustments as appropriate) in M2 funding commitments to support eight RCP project applications in the cities of Irvine, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, and Yorba Linda.

Of the eight recommended projects, six will provide arterial capacity improvement benefits (with construction and/or engineering phase allocations) and two projects will provide intersection capacity enhancements primarily with allocations to the engineering phase. Implementation of these projects in the 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 \$15 million in funding (Attachment A). All RTSSP applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency, and adherence to guidelines and overall program objectives. Staff worked with the local agencies to address technical issues primarily related to construction unit cost assumptions, as well as project scope clarifications. Attachment C includes programming recommendations per the 2020 CTFP Guidelines.

This recommendation provides \$12.1 million in programming to support six RTSSP project applications. Together, these projects will improve regional throughput on nine arterial roadways in the cities of Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, Orange, and Seal Beach, as well as in several immediately adjacent cities.

Additionally, as Attachment C shows, one project was deemed ineligible for this call because the application did not include current average daily traffic count information. This applicant is encouraged to reapply in a future call once this information has been fully compiled.

Finally, the table below provides a summary of total proposed funding recommendations for the 2020 CTFP call.

2020 CTFP Call Summary (\$ in millions)			
	RCP	RTSSP	Total
Number of Recommended Applications	8	6	14
Amount Recommended for Approval (escalated)	\$23.4	\$12.1	\$35.5

These recommendations are consistent with the 2020 CTFP Guidelines approved by the Board, and staff is recommending the programming of \$35.5 million in M2 funds to support 14 projects under the RCP and RTSSP programs. The recommendations were presented to both the OCTA Technical Steering Committee and TAC during the month of April, and both committees recommended Board approval. It should be noted that the total funding recommendation of \$35.5 million is below the Board-authorized amount of \$40 million, and staff will be updating future calls amounts to address based on updated sales tax forecasts (reflecting the impacts of the novel coronavirus). OCTA typically issues the CTFP call in August of each year, and staff expects to return to the Board in summer 2020 with recommended next steps.

Next Steps

If the Board approves the programming recommendations, they will be deemed final, and staff will initiate execution of letter agreements between OCTA and the appropriate local agencies. Once these agreements are executed, awarded local agencies will be authorized to seek M2 reimbursement for their respective eligible project costs. As these projects advance, staff will monitor their status and project delivery through the semi-annual review process, which is reported to the Board on a biannual basis.

Summary

Proposed programming recommendations for the M2 2020 RCP and RTSSP call have been developed. Funding for 14 projects, totaling \$35.5 million in M2 funds, is proposed. Board approval of these recommendations is requested.

Attachments

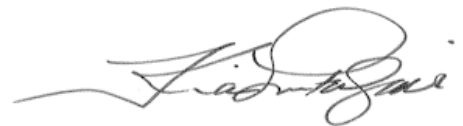
- A. 2020 Measure M2 Call for Projects, Applications Received
- B. 2020 Measure M2 Regional Capacity Program Call for Projects, Programming Recommendations
- C. 2020 Measure M2 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program Call for Projects, Programming Recommendations

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