




April 7, 2025

To: Executive Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority contracts with the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department to provide Transit Police Services. On July 13, 2020, the Board of Directors approved a five-year agreement with the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department, to provide these services. In anticipation of the commencement of both pre-revenue, testing environment operations, and full revenue operations, and consistent with prior direction from the Board of Directors, additional dedicated staff are necessary to provide expanded Transit Police Services for OC Streetcar. Board of Directors' approval is requested to amend the agreement to include necessary funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2024-25.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 6 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2330 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department, in the amount of \$209,876, for the initial request of OC Streetcar Transit Police Services, effective May 2, 2025 through June 30, 2025. This will increase the maximum obligation of the agreement to a total contract value of \$12,869,312.

Discussion

The County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) has provided Transit Police Services (TPS) for the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) patrons, employees, and properties since 1993. On July 13, 2020, OCTA's Board of Directors (Board) approved a cooperative agreement for five years with the OCSD to provide TPS.

OCTA anticipates pre-revenue operations for the OC Streetcar system to begin shortly after the first vehicles arrive in spring 2025. Vehicles will begin testing on track segment 1, between the Harbor Station and Raitt Street. This segment historically has seen frequent trespassing activity, including vandalism, camping, and students/pedestrians traversing the greenbelt. The Security and Emergency Preparedness Department, in consultation with TPS and consistent with prior direction from the Board, have determined a dedicated team of Orange County Sheriff's Deputies should be formed to provide law enforcement on the OC Streetcar system, with one sergeant and two deputies required for pre-revenue operations. In total, one sergeant and six deputies will be requested for full revenue operations. Securing additional TPS staff now will allow appropriate time to acquire staff and ramp up personnel in a fiscally responsible manner that is in alignment with the remaining construction schedule. An amendment is required to increase the overall contract value for the remainder of the fiscal year (FY) to cover the cost of adding TPS labor for the remainder of FY 2024-25. For FY 2025-26, OCTA will return to the Board requesting the additional level of service provided by OCSD for TPS and a five-year contract renewal. The \$209,876 budget request represents an increase of 1.66 percent over the amount budgeted for FY 2024-25. The increase is associated with adding one full-time sergeant and two deputies at the current contract rates. This cost is pro-rated for the remaining two months of the fiscal year and includes both direct staff cost as well as necessary equipment and training.

Complete contracted services provided by OCSD are listed on Attachment A. In addition to these services, OCSD also provides countywide services such as the Hazardous Devices Squad, Special Weapons and Tactics team, Special Victims Unit, and the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center. OCSD deputies assigned to TPS carry full police authorities, allowing them to conduct investigations and make misdemeanor and felony arrests. A cooperative agreement fact sheet is provided as Attachment B.

Fiscal Impact

Amendment No. 6 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2330 is estimated to cost \$209,876, and establishes the OC Streetcar team of TPS. This will be in addition to the Fixed-Route Team, the Community-Oriented Policing Team, the Explosives Detection and Canine Handler Team, and the Investigative Team. Collectively, these groups protect all of OCTA's assets through routine patrols and specialized activities such as Visual Intermodal Prevention and Response and Anti-Terrorism-Anti-Crime operations.

Summary

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 6 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2330 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department, in the amount of \$209,876 for the addition of two deputies and one sergeant to Transit Police Services from April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, bringing the maximum contract obligation to \$12,869,312.

Attachments

- A. County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department Services Provided
- B. County of Orange, Orange County Sheriff's Department Cooperative Agreement No. C-0-2330 Fact Sheet

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