




April 3, 2017

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – 2017 Call for Projects Programming Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority issued the 2017 annual Measure M2 Regional Capacity Program and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program call for projects in August 2016. This call for projects made available up to \$40 million in grant funding for streets and roads projects countywide. A list of projects recommended for funding is presented for review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the 2017 Regional Capacity Program to fund 13 projects, in an amount totaling \$32.24 million.
- B. Approve the 2017 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program to fund five projects, in an amount totaling \$2.5 million.

Background

The Regional Capacity Program (RCP), Project O, is the Measure M2 (M2) funding program that provides funds for capital improvements to congested streets, roads, intersections, and interchanges. The Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP) Guidelines (Guidelines) emphasize bringing relief to congested roads. Less congested roads could also get funded given available capacity.

The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (RTSSP), Project P, is the M2 program which provides funding for multi-jurisdictional signal synchronization projects along Orange County streets and roads. Funding is typically provided for a three-year period that includes the implementation of signal synchronization, as well as a limited amount of funding for ongoing maintenance and monitoring to keep the investments in optimal condition.

The 2017 Guidelines call for projects (call) allowed elements such as new traffic signal cabinets, controllers, software, communications equipment and operations and maintenance activities.

Both programs are included in the CTFP. The CTFP allocates funds through a competitive process using a common set of guidelines and scoring criteria. The Guidelines are developed in collaboration with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Guidelines for the 2017 call were approved by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) on August 8, 2016. The 2017 Guidelines established a tiered funding approach to prioritize high scoring RCP projects with funding availability for small and large projects. The first tier is for projects scoring 50 points or higher, and the second tier is for qualified projects after Tier 1. Within Tier 1, two categories were established: Category 1, with 60 percent of M2 funds available for smaller projects requesting \$5 million or less, and Category 2, with 40 percent of M2 funds available for larger projects requesting \$5 million or more. There were no tiering provisions for the RTSSP call.

On August 8, 2016, the Board authorized staff to issue a call, making available approximately \$32 million in RCP funding and \$8 million in RTSSP funding.

Discussion

RCP

On October 21, 2016, OCTA received 16 applications requesting \$46 million in RCP funding, as reflected in Attachment A. The applications were evaluated and ranked per the scoring criteria identified in the Guidelines.

Per the tiered approach, \$32 million is first split between Category 1 and Category 2 Tier 1 projects, as shown in the table below.

2017 RCP Projects Summary		
Total Funds Available	Tier 1 Category 1 (60 percent) M2 Request < \$5 million Project Score > 50	Tier 1 Category 2 (40 percent) M2 Request > \$5 million Project Score > 50
\$32 million	\$19.2 million	\$12.8 million

The staff recommendation is to program approximately \$32.24 million to fund 13 projects shown in Attachment B. The project application submitted by the City of Newport Beach (City) for the implementation phase of the Old Newport Beach and Pacific Coast Highway Project was considered incomplete due to the absence of the California Department of Transportation’s approval on the environmental document. The City can resubmit the application during the future call upon receiving the necessary approvals specified in the Guidelines. The City of Buena Park withdrew their application for the Orangethorpe Avenue Street Widening Project. Although the project application submitted by the City of Brea scored 50 points, OCTA is unable to fully fund the project, as the requested allocation exceeded the available funds. The City of Brea may re-apply during a future call.

Staff prepared the final funding recommendations in (escalated final values) per the tiered funding approach outlined above and described in the 2017 CTFP Guidelines. (Attachment B) This recommendation provides an additional \$243,000 for RCP projects, which is slightly above the \$32 million amount released for the call. This amount can be addressed given available capacity within the total \$40 million target.

RTSSP

OCTA received five applications requesting \$2.5 million in RTSSP funding. All applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency, and adherence to guidelines and program objectives. Staff worked with the local agencies to address technical issues related to excess right-of-way, construction unit costs, and project scopes.

The staff recommendation is to program \$2.5 million to fund the five projects. All of the recommended RTSSP projects will be implemented in fiscal year 2017-18. The details of projects recommended for funding for the RTSSP are shown in Attachment C. Although the Board authorized \$8 million in funding for the 2017 call cycle, the remaining balance of \$5.5 million will be carried forward into the next call.

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

2017 CTFP Call Summary (\$ in millions)			
	RCP	RTSSP	Total
Number of Applications Recommended for Approval	13	5	18
Amount Recommended for Approval (escalated)	\$32.24	\$2.5	\$34.74

Recommendations presented in the report are consistent with the 2017 Guidelines approved by the Board. Staff recommends programming \$34.74 million for 18 projects under RCP and RTSSP.

The recommended project programming was approved by the Technical Steering Committee and the TAC on February 22, 2017. If approved, the new projects will be incorporated into the master funding agreement between OCTA and all local agencies. Staff will continue to monitor the project status and project delivery throughout the semi-annual review process.

Summary

The proposed programming recommendations for projects in the RCP and RTSSP have been developed by staff. Funding for 18 projects totaling \$34.74 million in M2 funds is proposed. Staff is seeking Board approval of the programming recommendations presented.

Attachments

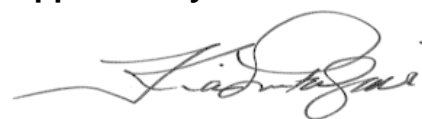
- A. 2017 Measure M2 Regional Capacity Program Call for Projects – Applications Received
- B. 2017 Measure M2 Regional Capacity Program Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations
- C. 2017 Measure M2 RTSSP Call for Projects – Programming Recommendation

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