



**December 6, 2021**

**To:** Regional Planning and Highways Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Semi-Annual Review – September 2021

### **Overview**

Orange County Transportation Authority staff recently completed the September 2021 semi-annual review of Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs projects. The review focused on the status and delivery of Measure M2 grant-funded projects and provided an opportunity for local agencies to update project information and request modifications. Staff has evaluated the requests, and the recommended project adjustments are presented for review and approval.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Approve requested adjustments to Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs projects and Local Fair Share and Senior Mobility Program funds.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Office to negotiate and execute cooperative agreement amendments for all applicable Project V cooperative agreements.

### **Background**

The Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP) is the mechanism which the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) uses to administer funding for streets and roads, signal synchronization, transit, and water quality projects.

The CTFP contains a variety of funding programs and sources, including Measure M2 (M2) revenues, State-Local Partnership Program funds, and Local

Partnership Program funds. The CTFP provides local agencies with a comprehensive set of guidelines for the administration and delivery of various transportation funding grants.

Through the semi-annual review, staff met with representatives from select local jurisdictions to review the status of projects and proposed project changes. This process is known as the semi-annual review. The goals of the semi-annual review are to review project status, determine the continued viability and delivery of projects, address local agency concerns, confirm availability of local match funds, ensure timely closeout of all projects funded through the CTFP, and address any other project-related issues or concerns.

### ***Discussion***

September 2021 semi-annual review project adjustment requests include the following:

- Five timely-use of funds extensions for projects funded with competitive funds,
- Two timely-use of funds extensions for Project X (Environmental Cleanup Program) projects with in-kind operations and maintenance commitments,
- 12 timely-use of funds extensions for the Local Fair Share (LFS) Program,
- 28 timely-use of funds extensions for the Senior Mobility Program (SMP),
- Five project scope changes, and
- One project fund transfer.

Local jurisdictions reported a variety of issues that have resulted in the need for project adjustments, primarily resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts. Other issues include project delivery and/or right-of-way coordination challenges, project design modifications, environmental assessment delays, and service schedule modifications. Some of the changes outlined above require changes to separate cooperative agreements between OCTA and the cities of Anaheim and San Clemente. These changes include a fund extension request for an Anaheim project and minor scope changes for San Clemente trolley services.

While the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have generally begun to ease, SMP services continue to be impacted by COVID-19, with 28 of this cycle's 53 total project adjustment requests coming from this program specifically. As the senior population remains particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, program usage and transit ridership has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, local agencies are operating either reduced or suspended SMP services until this segment of the population increases community engagement.

Attachment A includes more detailed information on all proposed semi-annual review project adjustment requests and Attachment B provides a narrative discussion of each proposed project adjustment request.

## M2 CTFP Summary

The M2 CTFP Summary Table provided below includes a summary of M2 CTFP-funded projects by phase and funding allocation amount. The table also documents programmatic changes that have occurred since the March 2021 semi-annual review.

M2 CTFP Summary Table				
Project Status	March 2021 Semi-Annual Review		September 2021 Semi-Annual Review	
	Project Phases	Allocations	Project Phases	Allocations <sup>1</sup> (after adjustments)
Planned <sup>2</sup>	66	\$ 67.6	76	\$ 75.2
Started <sup>3</sup>	103	\$162.2	103	\$162.4
Pending <sup>4</sup>	107	\$ 88.1	100	\$ 98.7
Completed <sup>5</sup>	388	\$177.0	411	\$189.9
Cancelled <sup>6</sup>	58	\$ 51.6	59	\$ 51.6
Total	722	\$546.5	749	\$577.8

<sup>1</sup> Allocations in millions, subject to change pending final reconciliation.

<sup>2</sup> Planned - indicates that funds have not been obligated and/or are pending contract award.

<sup>3</sup> Started - indicates that the phase is underway, and funds are obligated.

<sup>4</sup> Pending - indicates that phase work is completed, and final report submittal/approval is pending.

<sup>5</sup> Completed - indicates that phase work is complete, the final report is approved, and final payment has been made.

<sup>6</sup> Cancelled - indicates that the phase work will not be completed, and project savings will be returned to the program.

\* Note: the project phase and allocations listed above are subject to frequent and regular changes due primarily to project status updates, final reconciliations, and project closeout processes.

## Key items to note are that:

- Since the inception of Measure M, OCTA has programmed over \$577.8 million in competitive funds through the September 2021 semi-annual review period, including approximately \$37.8 million in state and federal funds.
- Total accumulated project savings, since inception, are estimated to be approximately \$64.5 million. These savings have been returned to M2 source programs and are used to support future funding cycles as appropriate. Cost savings from delivered projects are realized for various reasons such as contractor bids that are lower than the grant application estimate, equipment quantity adjustments, and minor construction modifications.

- As of publishing this report, 511 individual project phases (pending plus completed from the table above) have been completed. This represents a 74 percent project delivery rate, excluding cancelled projects.

This is an exceptional delivery rate as the percentage reflects both projects that have been allocated through the current fiscal year as well as projects programmed in later fiscal years. The type of success is indicative of local agencies' commitments to timely project delivery, as well as OCTA's commitment to careful project selection and project adjustment and monitoring procedures, like those identified in this report.

- Another 179 project phases or 26 percent are considered currently active, including 76 planned and 103 started.

Based on CTFP Guidelines, the proposed project adjustments identified in this staff report are appropriate and necessary. These proposed adjustments have also been reviewed and approved by the OCTA Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors, and approval of these adjustments is recommended.

#### **Next Steps**

If these recommendations are approved, staff will monitor their implementation through future semi-annual review cycles which are reported on biannually. Project V cooperative agreement amendments will also be processed scope changes and for timely-use of funds extensions, identified in the attachments, for applicable Project V services.

#### **Summary**

Consistent with the semi-annual review process, staff has reviewed all active M2 CTFP-funded project phases, as well as timely-use of funds provisions for LFS and SMP services, and is recommending approval of all proposed project adjustments. Authorization is also requested for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute updates to all applicable Project V cooperative agreements.

***Attachments***

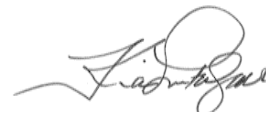
- A. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, September 2021  
Semi-Annual Review Adjustment Requests
- B. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, September 2021  
Semi-Annual Review Adjustment Request Descriptions

**Prepared By:**



Charvalen Alacar  
Principal Transportation Funding Analyst  
(714) 560-5401

**Approved By:**



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