



Committee Members Present

Laurie Davies, Chair
Lisa A. Bartlett, Vice Chairwoman
Michael Hennessey
Gene Hernandez
Tim Shaw

Staff Present

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Ken Phipps, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Laurena Weinert, Clerk of the Board
Gina Ramirez, Deputy Clerk of the Board
James Donich, General Counsel
OCTA Staff and members of the General Public

Committee Members Absent

Barbara Delgleize
Gregory T. Winterbottom

Call to Order

The November 21, 2019 regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications (L&C) Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Davies at 9:02 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Director Hennessey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments received.

Special Calendar

There were no Special Calendar matters.

Consent Calendar (Item 2)

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Director Hennessey, seconded by Director Hernandez, and declared passed by those present, to approve the minutes of the L&C Committee meeting of October 17, 2019.



Regular Calendar

3. Status Report of State Legislation Enacted in 2019

Lance Larson, Executive Director of External Affairs, provided opening comments and introduced Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, who introduced Alexis Leicht, the new Associate Government Relations Representative. Ms. Jacinto reported on the following:

- An update on all the bills that the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) took a position on this legislative session.
- The Governor had a similar veto percentage of 16.5 percent to what Governor Brown did in his last year of office.
- Senate Bill (SB) 277 was vetoed by the Governor.
- Overview of the following bills that were signed into law and OCTA supported: Assembly Bill (AB) 147, AB 252, and a sales tax exemption for zero emission buses.
- Two-year bills that continue to move forward are: SB 664 and SB 526.
- Ms. Jacinto noted that an error was found on page seven, paragraph five of the Staff Report. OCTA has an oppose position on SB 732.

A discussion ensued regarding how critical SB 732 is because the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is looking into creating a district for sales tax and how OCTA needs continue to monitor the bill. Mr. Larson, Executive Director of External Affairs, provided comments on the Board Members of the SCAQMD and assured that OCTA will do a lot of outreach.

Following the discussion, no action was taken on this receive and file information item.

4. Orange County Transportation Authority 2019-20 State and Federal Legislative Platforms

Lance Larson, Executive Director of External Affairs, provided opening comments and introduced Dustin Sifford, Senior Government Relations Representative, who reported on the following:

- This is the second version of the State and Federal Legislative Platforms and one of the biggest changes was to adjust the sponsor bill section.
- The toll operation bill, SB 664, will remain as a sponsor bill and the Active Transportation Program sponsor bill language will be removed.
- In the State Legislative Platform, it is recommended that language is added due to the Governor's recent Executive Order and the Safe Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Rule.

4. (Continued)

- In the Federal Legislative Platform, two minor changes are being recommended: to revise the language on the implementation of positive train control and broaden the provision on grade separations.

A motion was made by Director Hennessey, seconded by Director Hernandez, and declared passed by those present, to:

- A. Adopt the revised 2019-20 State and Federal Legislative Platforms.
- B. Direct staff to distribute the adopted platforms to elected officials, advisory committees, local governments, affected agencies, the business community, and other interested parties.

5. Performance Evaluation of Federal Legislative Advocate, Potomac Partners, DC

Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, reported on the following:

- This is the first year OCTA staff is evaluating the services provided by Potomac Partners, DC (PPDC).
- Since 2003, OCTA has contracted with PPDC for federal legislative advocacy services.
- The annual performance rating for PPDC is “very good” based on responsiveness, advancing OCTA’s positions and policies, and assisting in building cooperative relationships with members of Congress and the Administration.
- PPDC worked very hard on achieving the following:
 - Streamlining the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) process;
 - Continuing to work on cleaning up the language for the use of revenues from aviation fuel;
 - Obtaining support for grant applications; and
 - Consistently scheduling OCTA into meetings with new delegation members.
- Next year, PPDC will work closely on making decisions related to surface transportation reauthorization.
- In regards to streamlining the TIFIA language, OCTA received support from Senators Cornyn and Feinstein and the delegation in Orange County led by Representative Rouda.

Following the discussion, no action was taken on this receive and file information item.



6. Performance Evaluation of State Legislative Advocate, Platinum Advisors, LLC

Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, reported on the following:

- Background on the firm Platinum Advisors, LLC (Platinum) which includes the services of Moira Topp, who serves as the lead legislative advocate for OCTA.
- The annual performance rating for Platinum is rated excellent based on efforts.
- Highlights on SB 664, AB 147, AB 252, and SB 277.
- Platinum and Ms. Topp represented OCTA on SB 526, a two-year bill which provided changes to the SB 375 greenhouse gas emission reduction process for transportation agencies.
- Ms. Topp was able to establish new relationships with the delegation and most recently arranged the new Secretary of Transportation to meet with OCTA staff.
- Next year, it is anticipated that several bills related to how agencies operate their toll systems, enforce them, and give out penalties will be implemented. SB 664 will also continue to be a priority for OCTA.

Following the discussion, no action was taken on this receive and file information item.

Discussion Items

7. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Darrell E. Johnson, CEO, reported on the following:

- An update was given on the continuing resolution in Washington, D.C. The federal appropriations process is still ongoing. However, the House voted to pass a continuing resolution to fund the government for all the agencies and departments through December 20, 2019.
- This weekend crews will be installing the pre-cast concrete girders for the Bolsa Chica bridge for the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project. Closures will be from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on:
 - Friday, November 22nd at the Bolsa Chica Road, the southbound I-405, and the southbound Bolsa Chica on-ramp and; on
 - Saturday, November 23rd at Bolsa Chica Road, the northbound I-405, the southbound Bolsa Chica on-ramp, and the eastbound California State Route 22 off-ramp to Garden Grove Boulevard.
 - The public will be notified through all OCTA regular channels.

7. (Continued)

- A closure for the Interstate 5 (I-5) Central Project will include the 17th Street off-ramp from the northbound I-5 for approximately 55 hours for paving and striping activities. This closure is scheduled on Friday, November 22nd at 10:00 p.m. through Monday, November 25th at 6:00 a.m. to realign the ramp with the newly constructed roadway. The public will be notified through all OCTA regular channels.
- OCTA's Connect Orange County-Los Angeles Transit Study is currently underway. This week, OCTA began its public outreach to transit riders traveling between Orange and Los Angeles counties. In the next couple of weeks, survey teams will visit key bus stops and locations to gather rider feedback.
- This is the final Legislative and Communications Committee of the year and everyone was thanked for their hard work and for tackling tough issues this year.
- Mr. Johnson, CEO, wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving holiday and stated that OCTA's administrative offices will be closed next Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the holiday.

8. Committee Members' Reports

Director Hernandez asked if there have been any complaints on the project shutdowns. Mr. Johnson, CEO, commented that there have been complaints, and OCTA tracks about 150 comments per month for the I-405 Improvement Project which is extremely low. He added that different OCTA channels of communication to the public is helpful.

Director Shaw asked if people are using the Waze application to avoid the construction. Mr. Johnson, CEO, confirmed that OCTA does have a partnership with Waze on the I-405 Improvement Project to populate specific detours. He added that Apple and Google maps do show more real time information and data.



9. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

The **9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 19, 2019**, meeting of the Legislative and Communications Committee was cancelled.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020**, at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, 550 South Main Street, Board Room – Conference Room 07, Orange, California.

ATTEST

Laurie Davies
Committee Chair

Gina Ramirez
Deputy Clerk of the Board