OCTA

December 1, 2025

To: Regional Transportation Planning Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: 2026 Technical Steering Committee Membership

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority Technical Advisory Committee provides feedback and input on Measure M2 local streets and roads-related funding programs and items. The Technical Advisory Committee relies on a Technical Steering Committee to perform an in-depth review of more complex technical items. Proposed 2026 Technical Steering Committee membership recommendations are presented for the Board of Directors' review and approval.

Recommendation

Approve the proposed 2026 Technical Steering Committee membership recommendations.

Background

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established in 1976 under the legislation enabling the creation of the Orange County Transportation Commission, a predecessor agency to OCTA. The TAC is comprised of representatives from all Orange County cities, the County of Orange, and a non-voting representative from the California Department of Transportation.

The TAC provides input regarding the guidelines for the allocation of Measure M2 competitive grant funds. The TAC also provides technical advice on items related to streets and roads, such as the Orange County Long-Range Transportation Plan, Traffic Signal Synchronization Master Plan, and the Master Plan of Arterial Highways updates. The TAC relies on a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) to vet, review, and discuss technical issues before submission to the TAC for final review and consideration.

The TSC consists of nine voting members and one non-voting ex-officio member. Members are approved for nomination by the TAC and appointed by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board). The nine TSC voting member positions include one position from each of Orange County's five supervisorial districts, two at-large positions, and the chair and vice chair positions. The chair and vice chair of the TSC also serve as the chair and vice chair of the TAC. The TSC members serve two-year terms, with the chair and vice chair serving one-year terms, and membership is evaluated as position terms expire. Election to the TSC requires letters of interest from existing TAC representatives, which are reviewed by the president of the City Engineers Association of Orange County (CEAOC) and the TAC/TSC chair, with support from OCTA staff before recommendations are advanced to the TAC for consideration. The final recommendation includes consideration of a balance between small and large jurisdictions and between north and south local agencies.

Discussion

In August 2025, OCTA solicited letters of interest to fill seven TSC vacancies for the 2026 calendar year. Five of the nine TSC positions were open due to expiring terms, which included the chair, vice chair, First District, Fourth District, and one at-large position. Additionally, the Second District representative retired before completing their term, and the current at-large representative from the City of Laguna Niguel resigned to be considered for a leadership position (chair or vice chair). This created a one-year vacancy for the Second District seat and the second at-large position.

Letters of interest from seven eligible TAC members were received. In accordance with OCTA procedures for administering the TSC (Attachment A), the president of the CEAOC and the chair of the TSC/TAC reviewed all letters of interest and, with input from OCTA staff, developed the 2026 TSC membership recommendations (Attachment B).

Consistent with past practice, the vice chair representing the City of Seal Beach is recommended for the 2026 chair position. The representative from the City of Laguna Niguel, currently serving in an at-large position, is recommended to serve as the 2026 vice chair. The First District position is recommended for appointment by the representative from the City of Fountain Valley. The Second District position is recommended for appointment by the representative from the City of Tustin to complete the remainder of the former representative's term. The Fourth District position is recommended for appointment by the representative from the City of Anaheim. The open at-large position is recommended for appointment by the representative from the County of Orange. A vacancy was created in the second at-large position by the recommendation of the current representative from the City of Laguna Niguel to serve as the 2026 vice chair. To fill this vacancy, it is recommended that the representative from the

City of Costa Mesa be appointed to serve the remainder of the resigning representative's current term.

In finalizing these recommendations, the president of the CEAOC and the TSC/TAC chair emphasized the need to maintain a balance between large/small and north/south Orange County cities. The TAC unanimously endorsed the recommendation in October 2025, and this recommendation is now being advanced for Board consideration and approval.

Summary

The TSC provides guidance and direction on major technical issues before presentation to the full TAC. Members of the TSC serve two-year terms, except the chair and vice chair, who serve one-year terms. There are seven positions recommended for appointment in the next calendar year, which include two out-of-cycle positions. The two out-of-cycle positions are recommended for appointment due to the retirement of the current Second District representative and the existing at-large representative from the City of Laguna Niguel being recommended for a TSC leadership position. The recommended appointment list for 2026 TSC membership is presented for Board consideration and approval.

Attachments

A. Technical Steering Committee Policies and Procedures
B. Recommended 2026 Technical Steering Committee Membership List

Prepared by:

Charvalen Alacar
Section Manager, M2 Local Programs
(714) 560-5401

Approved by:

Rose Casey
Executive Director, Planning
(714) 560-5729