




March 9, 2017

To: Transit Committee
From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 
Subject: Grant Award for the 2017 and 2018 Angels Express Service

Overview

On March 16, 2017, the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee of the South Coast Air Quality Management District is expected to award the Orange County Transportation Authority \$503,272 in grant funds to support the direct operating costs of the Angels Express service for the 2017 and 2018 baseball seasons. Authorization is requested to accept the award and execute grant-related agreements.

Recommendation

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to accept the grant award and execute grant-related agreements with the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee to support the Angels Express service.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to execute agreements with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to provide special rail service for the Angels Express.

Background

Signed into law in September 1990, AB 2766 (Chapter 1705, Statutes of 1990) authorized a \$4.00 per vehicle surcharge on annual motor vehicle registration fees to fund programs that reduce motor vehicle air pollution. AB 2766 mandated that 30 cents of every dollar collected be deposited into a discretionary account managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). To determine which projects to fund, AB 2766 created the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) to establish criteria, evaluate proposed projects, and make final funding recommendations to the SCAQMD Governing Board.

Periodically, the MSRC makes available grant funds on a competitive basis to reduce automobile trips and promote transit usage as a means of reducing emissions within the South Coast Air Basin, which spans all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

On March 3, 2017, the MSRC announced the two-year Major Event Center Transportation grant program, which made available \$5 million to fund the direct operating costs of transit services that specifically serve major event center venues located within the South Coast Air Basin. The purpose of the grant program is to promote event-specific transit service to mitigate traffic congestion and reduce automobile trips at major events.

Discussion

On March 16, 2017, the MSRC Board is expected to award the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) \$503,272 to support the direct operating cost of providing the Angels Express Service for both the 2017 and 2018 baseball seasons. OCTA will partner with the Angels Baseball and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to provide express Metrolink rail service to serve all weekday evening home games that start at 7:07 PM. A total of 110 Angel weekday home games is anticipated to be served during the two seasons. The 2017 service will begin on March 30, 2017, and operate through September 29, 2017, for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (Angels) baseball season. A total of 54 games will be served during the 2017 season, including two preseason games with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

With over 42,000 boardings last year, the service continues to be popular in providing baseball fans with a convenient and attractive alternative to the automobile for travel to and from home games at the Angel Stadium of Anaheim. The service will utilize regular Metrolink trains to operate along the Orange County Line, originating from Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo in the south, and from Los Angeles Union Station in the north, to the Anaheim Station. A special Metrolink train will depart Anaheim and return fans to stations north en route to Los Angeles after the game. To satisfy the anticipated demand and in response to customer feedback, the Angels Express is also offering special limited service for 15 Friday home games along the Inland Empire-Orange County line from Riverside Downtown to Orange, with a transfer at Orange to the Anaheim Station. Taken together, passengers will be able to board the Angels Express trains at any of the Metrolink stations listed as follows, en route to Angel Stadium of Anaheim. A map of the routes and stations is presented in Attachment A.

Northbound to Anaheim

- Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo
- Irvine
- Tustin
- Santa Ana
- Orange
- Anaheim

Southbound to Anaheim

- Los Angeles Union Station
- Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs
- Buena Park
- Fullerton
- Anaheim

Westbound to Anaheim

- Riverside/Downtown
- Riverside/La Sierra
- North Main Corona
- West Corona
- Anaheim Canyon
- Orange*
- Anaheim

**Transfer station*

To maximize ridership, OCTA, Metrolink, and the Angels will once again work in partnership to promote the service and provide special incentives. These efforts include a discounted \$7.00 round trip fare, \$6.00 for seniors/disabled, and a special \$4.00 youth pass for children ages 6 to 18. Passengers ages 5 and under ride free. Other elements of the partnership include signage at the Angel Stadium and the Big A freeway sign, program and concourse ads, Angel's print at home ticket ads and ticket envelope ads, web banners, email blasts to season seat holders, and social media posts. A micro web page on the Angels.com website will also offer a 50 percent discount off select Angel game tickets for those who ride the Angels Express. In addition, the joint marketing campaign will target both current OCTA customers as well as those who are not current or frequent transit users. The campaign will also include radio, web, and other electronic media, on-board and exterior bus advertisements, as well as outreach activities supported by OCTA, Metrolink, and the Angels.

The MSRC Major Event Center Transportation Grant program requires a local match of cash or in-kind services that is equal to or greater than the MSRC funding request amount. These express services have been tailored to meet the funding limitations of the grant program and provide a local match contribution that consists solely of in-kind services. The in-kind local match contribution, estimated at \$504,000 for the 2017 and 2018 seasons combined, will be provided in the form of OCTA staff time, marketing costs, fare and admission discounts, and farebox revenue as allowed by the grant program.

To ensure all the air quality grant funds are used to reduce harmful emissions, the MSRC grant can only fund those train trips operated with cleaner Tier 2 emissions-rated locomotives for the 2017 season. The tier rating number refers to locomotives that conform to emissions standards applicable to those originally manufactured on or after January 1, 2005. These Tier 2 locomotives are approximately two times cleaner in terms of both particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) when compared to the Tier 0 locomotives that make up the remainder of the Metrolink fleet. Of particular importance is the

reduction of diesel PM which is classified by the California Air Resources Board as a toxic air contaminant and known carcinogen, while NOx is an ozone pre-cursor that forms the primary element in smog.

To further ensure the air quality benefits of the grant program, the MSRC grant can only support trips operated by Tier 4 locomotives for the 2018 season. Tier 4 locomotives are the cleanest diesel locomotives in the nation, and are approximately eight times cleaner in terms of NOx emissions and 18 times cleaner in terms of PM when compared to Tier 0 locomotives. Metrolink anticipates upgrading their locomotive fleet to Tier 4 locomotives in the summer of 2017 in time for the 2018 baseball season.

As Metrolink member agencies, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) and Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) are also participating in the 2017 and 2018 Angels Express Service and have agreed to pay their share of operating costs that cannot be covered by the grant. The Orange County line is funded by OCTA and LACMTA at 70 percent and 30 percent, respectively, and the Inland Empire-Orange County Line is funded 65 percent by OCTA and 35 percent by RCTC.

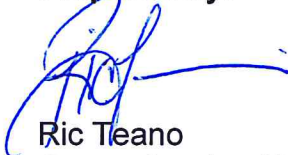
Summary

On March 16, 2017, the MSRC of the SCAQMD is expected to award OCTA \$503,272 in grant funds to support the direct operating costs of providing the Angels Express service for the 2017 and 2018 baseball seasons. Authorization is requested to accept the grant awards and execute grant funding agreements.

Attachments

- A. Special Metrolink Service to Angels Home Games

Prepared by:

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