




**March 9, 2017**

**To:** Transit Committee  
**From:** Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer   
**Subject:** Transit Master Plan - State of OC Transit

### **Overview**

The Transit Master Plan will develop an integrated bus, rail, and paratransit plan for Orange County. This plan will identify future potential transit corridor studies and recommended changes to existing transit service. The State of OC Transit Report presents early findings and draft vision and goals for the transit system.

### **Recommendation**

Direct staff to return to the Board of Directors in May 2017, with the draft Transit Master Plan Investment Framework.

### **Background**

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) initiated the Transit Master Plan in summer 2016. This process takes a high-level look at long-term transit needs throughout Orange County and will identify a series of corridors suitable for additional transit improvement. These identified priority corridors may then be further studied to recommend appropriate transit capital investment strategies. In addition, the plan will help guide future changes to fixed-route bus service. Projects identified in the plan will inform the OCTA Long-Range Transportation Plan and position OCTA for upcoming transit funding opportunities at the local, state, and federal level.

This report presents initial findings from the State of OC Transit Summary Report, as well as provides draft vision and goals for consideration. Staff will provide regular updates to the Transit Committee (Committee) and the Board of Directors (Board) during the planning process as shown in the graphic below.



## ***Discussion***

The Transit Master Plan project team includes representatives from several OCTA divisions and the project consultant. Staff has provided the consultant with data, studies, and policies for the various transit services in and around Orange County. Early visioning meetings were held with 18 stakeholder groups in late 2016, to get their thoughts on the future of transit service. The information gathered was compiled in the State of OC Transit Report, which is described in the following section.

### **State of OC Transit Report**

This report provides an overview of existing transit service in Orange County, including the context in which it operates, the built environment, travel patterns, and demographics. It also summarizes important local and regional plans and policies, describes best practices in the development of rapid-transit corridors, and discusses emerging transportation trends and technologies. Finally, the report includes the transit-related opinions, perceptions, and priorities of a broad range of local stakeholders. A summary of the full report is included as Attachment A. The full report can be downloaded from the project website at [www.octa.net/octransitvision](http://www.octa.net/octransitvision).

The key findings from the report are listed below, and further details are provided in Attachment A.

- Three-quarters of existing bus ridership is concentrated on 19 key corridors.
- Bus service is focused on the weekday commuter market.
- Bus routes serve a select number of hubs, destinations, and connection points generally located in central/north County.
- OCTA has begun taking steps to address recent ridership declines.
- Limited funding has constrained ridership growth.
- Land use and demographics present both challenges and opportunities for effective transit service.
- The overall transportation network presents both challenges (disconnected street network in South County) and opportunities (well-connected street grid in central/north County) for effective transit service.
- Long-term transportation trends offer a mixed message (e.g., ease of auto travel, demographic changes, and new technologies).
- Transit use can support greenhouse gas reduction targets.
- The Bravo! lines and future OC Streetcar provide a template for ridership growth.
- Key stakeholder interviews indicate shifting trends, such as the need for travel options and transit services that attract new users.

The report has important background information for the rest of the Transit Master Plan process. Copies will be provided to all stakeholders over the next few months.

#### Draft Vision and Goals

The project team has also developed a draft vision statement, including goals and objectives for Board consideration. This feedback, will be used to guide the Transit Master Plan process (Attachment B). The draft vision statement is:

*Provide compelling and competitive transit service that expands transportation choices for current riders, attracts new riders, and supports mobility in Orange County.*

The draft goals areas for transit are enhance, connect, simplify, support, and sustain. Each goal has accompanying objectives that will be used to develop a Transit Investment Framework. The framework document would outline where and when it makes sense to consider additional investments in transit. This includes demand-response services, fixed-route and rapid bus service, bus rapid transit, and fixed-rail. Staff will take Committee and Board input on the vision/goals and will return in May with a draft Transit Investment Framework for consideration.

#### Next Steps

Staff will return in May with a draft Transit Investment Framework, which will be used to develop transit service recommendations for the study.

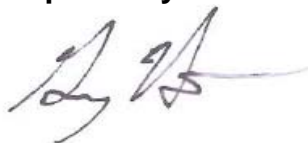
#### **Summary**

This report presents findings on the State of OC Transit Summary Report and seeks feedback on the draft vision and goals for the transit system.

#### **Attachments**

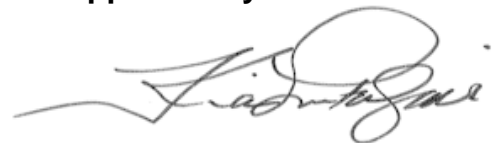
- A. OC – State of OC Transit Summary Report – January 2017
- B. Draft Vision, Goals, and Objectives – OC Transit Vision

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