



June 15, 2017

To: Legislative and Communications Committee
From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Update and New Member Recruitment

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee provides feedback on significant transportation issues, helps identify opportunities for community input, and serves as a public liaison for the Orange County Transportation Authority. A summary of the committee's activities during the past year and the new member appointment status is provided with this report.

Recommendation

Receive and file the Citizens Advisory Committee status report.

Background

In its role as a county transportation commission, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is required by the California Public Utilities Code (PUC) 130105 (d) to appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input on transportation projects, programs, services, and outreach activities. The PUC states that the commission shall "appoint...a citizens advisory committee, which membership shall reflect a broad spectrum of interests and all geographic areas of the county." The CAC is structured such that each OCTA Board of Directors (Board) member appoints two members of the public to serve, creating a 34-member committee representing diverse interests and geographic areas of Orange County.

To carry out the CAC's mission, ongoing responsibilities include:

- Commenting on significant transportation issues, suggesting possible solutions, and making recommendations to the Board when appropriate
- Identifying opportunities for community input

- Recommending mechanisms and methodologies for obtaining public opinion on specific transportation issues
- Serving as a liaison between the public and OCTA

In addition, the CAC has formed a Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee, which meets quarterly to review items and issues related specifically to active transportation, and a Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee, which meets as needed to review new ideas focused on technological advances and innovations that could help improve Orange County's transportation system.

Discussion

As an advisory body, members' comments and suggestions help shape OCTA's services and communications to be responsive and user-friendly to the public. The wide range of viewpoints and interests represented by the membership also provides OCTA with an added sounding board for prospective programs and initiatives. Director Gregory Winterbottom regularly attends meetings, providing guidance and sharing his insights with the committee.

CAC input is communicated to the Board in a variety of ways. Members' feedback on projects and initiatives is incorporated as programs develop, which is often noted in project staff reports. As direct appointees of the Board, CAC members are also encouraged to communicate directly with their appointing Board Member. Consistent with a longstanding practice, the CAC chairman is invited to share the committee's activities and recommendations with the Board annually.

During the past year, the CAC met five times to review and provide feedback on a variety of OCTA programs and topics. Key activities for this past year included:

- Creating a Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee
- Acting as the stakeholder working group for the Transit Master Plan (OC Transit Vision) and Long Range Transportation Plan
- Touring the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) SR-91 Project
- Supporting the CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee Suggested Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Treatments at Freeway Interchanges List, which was presented to the OCTA Board and forwarded to the California Department of Transportation
- Commenting on OCTA's State and Federal Legislative Platform
- Discussing the progress of OC Streetcar and I-405 Improvement Project
- Providing feedback on the Measure M Next 10 Plan and Central Harbor Boulevard Transit Corridor Study
- Following up on the outcome of OC Bus 360 Plan and the Fare Study

- Reviewing the Caltrans Draft Managed Lanes Network Study
- Supporting OCTA marketing efforts relating to bicycle and pedestrian safety, bus education, and Metrolink and Amtrak services

CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee

During the past year, the 10-member CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee met three times to give feedback on ways to better incorporate bicycle commuting as an alternative mode of transportation, and to emphasize the need to consider bicycle lanes and cyclist and pedestrian safety when making transportation improvements throughout Orange County.

The subcommittee finalized their list of suggested design and engineering treatments that can better accommodate people walking and biking through freeway interchanges, and forwarded it on to the full CAC. This list was presented to the Board and eventually forwarded to Caltrans. Items reviewed by the subcommittee also include recent and upcoming grants, best practices for working with local jurisdictions, active transportation marketing campaigns, the SR-55 Improvement Project, the Active Transportation Plan (OC Active), stop designs for the OC Streetcar, Southern California Association of Governments' Go Human campaigns and events, and the California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee

During the past year, the nine-member Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee met twice, with the first meeting being held on February 28, 2017. The ad hoc committee established their mission statement and a list of topics members are interested in discussing. Items reviewed by the ad hoc committee include digital communications for bus customers, on-demand service, vehicle to vehicle and vehicle to infrastructure technology, and autonomous vehicle public policy, regulations, and pilot opportunities.

New Member Recruitment

CAC members serve staggered two-year terms from July through June, so each year every Board Member has one CAC member whose term expires on June 30. Committee members can serve unlimited terms. In February, each committee member with an expiring term was contacted to see if they were interested in continuing to serve. In addition, announcements were made seeking potential applicants by including articles on OCTA's blog; posting videos via social media outlets; and sending information to media, city contacts, and local organizations to publish and include in their newsletters.

The opportunity to reappoint interested members for an additional term, along with resignations, was presented to each OCTA Board Member and their staff starting in April. The recruitment is now complete, and Board Members have either reappointed existing members or appointed new members to begin service on July 1, 2017, or have appointments pending (Attachment A).

To show OCTA's appreciation to members whose terms have expired, resolutions of appreciation have been prepared to thank them for their contributions.

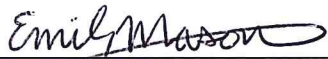
Summary

The CAC plays an important role in OCTA's efforts to incorporate public feedback into the agency's transportation decision-making process. CAC members have contributed to the work of OCTA in the past year. With the recruitment process for fiscal year 2017-18 now complete, OCTA Board Members have either reappointed existing CAC members or appointed new members or have appointments pending.

Attachment

- A. Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee
Roster Fiscal Year 2017-18

Prepared by:



Emily K. Mason
Community Relations Specialist
714-560-5421

Approved by:



Lance M. Larson
Executive Director
External Affairs
(714) 560-5908