



July 6, 2017

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: OC Active: Project Update

Overview

Preparation of a countywide active transportation plan is underway. The plan will help ensure bicycle and pedestrian improvement efforts are coordinated between local jurisdictions, and will reduce the need for agencies to develop similar plans in order to compete for state and federal grants. Project goals have been developed as a first step in the process and are presented for review.

Recommendation

Receive and file as an information item.

Background

In early 2017, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved the consultant selection to develop the first countywide Active Transportation Plan (OC Active). OC Active will evaluate needs, as well as recommend active transportation (bicycle and pedestrian) improvements for all 35 local jurisdictions in Orange County. Currently, few Orange County cities have started or completed a pedestrian plan. OC Active will include analysis to identify pedestrian improvement areas and will incorporate all regional and local bikeway planning work conducted to date by OCTA and local jurisdictions.

The list of improvement recommendations will be tied to goals and metrics, and be developed based on both community input, as well as technical analyses throughout the process. OC Active will also provide information and analysis required by the state guidelines for active transportation plans. By prioritizing improvements, OC Active will help guide local agency efforts to secure funding to implement infrastructure improvements. These results will also help guide countywide funding and program decisions.

Discussion

The draft goals below are intended to guide decision making during preparation of the plan. To date, these goals have been discussed with the Orange County Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee, OCTA's Technical Advisory Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Committee Bike and Pedestrian Subcommittee.

1. Advance Strategic Walking and Biking Network
2. Enhance Walking and Biking Access to Transit
3. Improve High-Need Pedestrian Areas
4. Reduce Pedestrian and Bicyclist Collisions
5. Strengthen Stakeholder Partnerships
6. Incorporate Diverse Community Perspectives
7. Leverage Funding Opportunities

The goals will ensure OC Active supports regional mobility needs and empowers local jurisdictions to provide a responsive transportation network. The goals will influence the technical analysis and be used to evaluate the success of the final report, scheduled for completion in late 2018. Subsequent efforts will include bikeways and pedestrian analysis, and finalization of the public engagement efforts identified in Attachments A and B. The public outreach approach focuses on attending local pre-planned community events to reach a broad spectrum of Orange County residents, a schools-related art contest in October, and social community engagement activities with public safety representatives.

After finalizing the goals above, the technical pedestrian and bicycle analysis will advance. An update of OC Active and other OCTA active transportation efforts is planned for presentation to the OCTA Board in August 2017.

Summary

Staff will utilize the draft project goals and continue working with local agencies, local jurisdictions, and community members to prepare OC Active.

Attachments

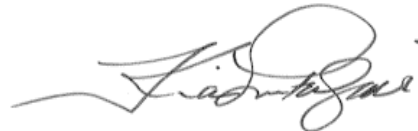
- A. OC Active Orange County's Bike + Ped Plan, OC Active Draft Community Engagement Outline
- B. OC Active Orange County's Bike + Ped Plan, OC Active Project Schedule

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