



August 7, 2017

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Active Transportation Update

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority coordinates regional active transportation efforts in Orange County. An update on recent and upcoming activities is provided for review.

Recommendation

Receive and file as an information item.

Background

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) receives updates on regional active transportation annually. These efforts support the OCTA role in expanding and promoting active transportation. This report provides an update on regional bicycle and pedestrian planning, educational efforts, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

Discussion

Regional Bikeways Planning

Between 2011 and 2016, OCTA prepared four sub-area studies identifying 41 regional bikeway corridors. Forty percent of these regional bikeways have already been locally implemented, while the remaining segments require project development and funding to complete. The estimated amount of funding for completion is between \$400 million and \$500 million. Highlighted segments of the regional bikeways have received funding for enhancements or new bikeways,

as shown in Attachment A. Funding has been secured by local agencies for various phases of work, such as project design, right-of-way acquisition, and/or construction.

Funding opportunities to implement local and regional bikeways have primarily come from the OCTA administered Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program and the state administered Active Transportation Program (ATP). SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, provides significant funding that may be used towards bicycle and pedestrian projects. OCTA will participate in upcoming workshops related to SB 1 and will encourage local agencies to pursue future ATP funding opportunities.

OC Loop

The OC Loop envisions a 66-mile regional bikeway network serving the north and central portions of Orange County. It is comprised of the regional bikeway corridors identified in the regional bikeways strategies. Over the past few decades, multiple agencies have worked independently to implement portions of the OC Loop, completing about 70 percent. When complete, the OC Loop will primarily be an off-street system that will utilize the existing off-street trails along the San Gabriel River, Coyote Creek, Union Pacific Railroad corridor, The Tracks at Brea, and the Santa Ana River.

In 2015, the County of Orange (County) completed a feasibility study that provides recommendations and cost estimates on closing gaps along the OC Loop. Based on the engineering recommendations, OCTA prepared the OC Loop 70/30 Plan, which provides an executive level summary fact sheet with estimated improvement costs for each segment of the OC Loop. Additional information can be found on the OC Loop website at www.octa.net/ocloop.

The County staff has continued to pursue funding to advance OC Loop segments, and recently, Segment F, in the Yorba Linda area was implemented by the County. The roughly one mile segment travels through a residential neighborhood, and implementation consisted primarily of wayfinding signage and sidewalk improvements. Attachment B shows the OC Loop Segments.

OCTA is also facilitating the negotiations between Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and the cities of Brea and La Habra to secure an easement for the OC Loop Segments A and B. OCTA is coordinating the plan reviews and approvals with the California Public Utilities Commission and UPRR. OCTA will continue to coordinate with the County and local cities to advance projects to bring the OC Loop to completion.

Go Human

Since 2015, OCTA has partnered with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to develop the marketing campaign and encouragement events for the Go Human campaign. Go Human is the branding for the SCAG campaign to improve safety and encourage more active transportation travel. SCAG worked with the City of Westminster to develop the Go Human “Experience Hoover” event in 2016, and four additional events were hosted in 2017:

- Garden Grove – Re:Imagine Garden Grove (April 1);
- Brea – Experience the Tracks at Brea (May 27);
- OC Parks, Anaheim and Yorba Linda – Connect the Loop (June 10);
- Santa Ana – 18th Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival (May 5).

Go Human events have provided temporary demonstrations of separated bikeways, celebrated new trails, or supported open streets events, such as the third annual event conducted in Garden Grove. Attendance varies as marketing for each event is in scale with dedicated agency resources. Each event has a set of goals developed by the local agency, such as exhibiting a new design concept, or bringing a large number of people to a community festival.

Based on the respective event goals, local agencies have expressed support with the SCAG collaboration and for Go Human events. An additional Go Human demonstration is being considered by OC Public Works in fall 2017 to illustrate a barrier-separated bikeway concept along Hazard Avenue, which aligns with a project that has received bikeways funding from OCTA.

OC Active

In early 2017, the Board approved the consultant selection to develop the first countywide ATP, called OC Active. Funding for OC Active is primarily provided through a state ATP Cycle 2 grant.

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 ATPs. 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.

As discussed with the Board in July 2017, the project goals and public engagement plan have been developed. Utilizing the goals and engagement plan, technical analysis has now commenced and preliminary results will be presented to the Board in early 2018, with study completion planned for summer 2018.

Systemic Safety Analysis Report (SSAR)

In early 2017, the OCTA Board authorized consultant support to develop a SSAR for Orange County. Funding for the SSAR is primarily provided through a state Highway Safety Improvement Program grant.

The Orange County SSAR will be developed in partnership with local agencies and include an analysis of bicycle and pedestrian related collisions spanning the Orange County roadway network. It will identify incident trends and potential locations with high crash occurrences based on roadway and intersection type. The analysis will help recognize the risk factors related to bicycle and pedestrian collisions, and will be used to develop a list of potential infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions. These recommended solutions will be based on nationally published crash reduction information and could include traffic control devices, warning beacons, improved lighting, enhanced signage, and refuge islands for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Staff will provide updates to the Board during development of the SSAR, which is anticipated to take 18 months. Contract negotiations are underway now, and the consultant is expected to begin work in late 2017.

Active Transportation Counts Framework Study

In early 2016, OCTA hired a consultant to develop an Active Transportation Counts Framework Study (Framework). Funding for the Framework is primarily provided through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.

While significant investments have been made to improve active transportation in Orange County, there is a lack of quantitative data and analysis regarding traffic flow, exposure rates, and collisions related to walking and biking. The Framework will develop goals, evaluate equipment needs, recommend collection locations, document capital and maintenance costs, and provide recommendations for data management.

Consultant work began in June 2017, and the Framework is anticipated to take 12 months, with ongoing coordination and collaboration with Caltrans, the County, and local jurisdictions.

Education

Since February 2016, OCTA staff have pursued and secured over \$900,000 in grant funding for efforts to evaluate and plan for improved facilities for people walking and biking. The topics covered by the grants include planning, enforcement, evaluation, and education. The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Highway Safety Program provided grant funds to OCTA in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016-17 for creation of safety videos, and OTS has indicated OCTA has been recommended for funding in FFY 2017-18 for distribution of reflectors, bike lights, bike helmets, and bike skills training courses directly to community members. OCTA will continue to coordinate with OTS to complete the safety videos and to advance the next grant for bike skills training and safety materials distribution.

Enforcement

In early 2017, SCAG selected OCTA for competitive grant funding of the Partnerships with Police (PWP) Project. The PWP Project will utilize local collision data to identify dangerous behaviors and provide a training program developed collaboratively with local enforcement staff to improve active transportation throughout Orange County. The PWP Project will initiate a forum for open dialogue with law enforcement staff to clarify and address common issues and questions related to active transportation.

The grant application was prepared with letters of support from six different Orange County police departments, including the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The project is expected to begin in fall 2017, and will begin with a presentation to the Orange County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association for input and participation.

Summary

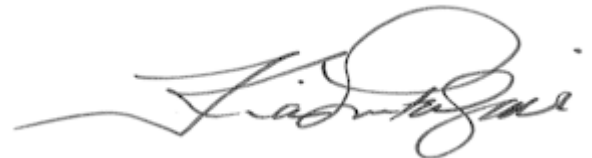
OCTA has advanced planning, education, encouragement, and enforcement efforts to improve active transportation throughout Orange County. Coordination and collaboration continues between SCAG, Caltrans, and community members to encourage and support people walking and bicycling within Orange County.

Attachments

- A. Regional Bikeways Progress Maps, North County and South County
- B. OC Loop Segments Map

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