




**January 5, 2017**

**To:** Regional Planning and Highways Committee

**From:** Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** Active Transportation Program Cycle 3 Project Prioritization

### **Overview**

On March 16, 2016, the California Transportation Commission adopted the Active Transportation Program Guidelines and issued a two-tiered call for projects, making state and federal funds available for a bicycle and pedestrian call for projects from the State of California or the Southern California Association of Governments. A list of Orange County project point assignments for the Southern California Association of Governments regional project selection is presented for the Board of Directors' approval.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Approve the additional points assigned to the Orange County Active Transportation Program Cycle 3, Regional Projects, consistent with the Orange County Transportation Authority-adopted Active Transportation Program project prioritization and submittal to the Southern California Association of Governments.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to approve and adopt any future technical changes, substitutions, and additions to the final recommended project list.
- C. Authorize staff to process all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program to facilitate the above actions.

### **Background**

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) was approved as part of SB 99 (Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013) on September 26, 2013, and includes federal and state funds for a bicycle and pedestrian call for projects (call) statewide. The 2017 ATP call will provide funding for projects in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

On March 16, 2016, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted the ATP Cycle 3 Guidelines (Guidelines) and issued a call. A fact sheet outlining the CTC Guidelines is provided in Attachment A.

On June 15, 2016, 456 ATP applications were received by the California Department of Transportation, 19 of which were from Orange County, requesting \$60.63 million in ATP funds. A list of all Orange County project submittals is provided in Attachment B.

On October 10, 2016, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) reaffirmed the project prioritization methodology to distribute up to ten points to projects eligible through the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) regional project selection metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) call (Attachment C).

### ***Discussion***

On December 6, 2016, the CTC approved \$158.09 million for 54 ATP projects across the state. One Orange County project from the City of Santa Ana, for \$4.57 million, was awarded funding through the statewide call. The remaining applications will be transferred to the SCAG regional project selection MPO call.

Consistent with the Board-approved ATP local project prioritization methodology, staff assigned points to 17 infrastructure and Safe-Routes to School (SRTS) Project applications for the regional ATP funding considerations (Attachment B). One City of Santa Ana infrastructure project, the Ross Street Protected Bicycle Lanes, was withdrawn from the ATP call by the City of Santa Ana in order to coordinate with other projects in the area. Another City of Santa Ana non-infrastructure project, the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Education Campaign, was automatically submitted for consideration through a separate SCAG Sustainability Planning Grants call, which funds planning and non-infrastructure ATP projects. Consistent with SCAG policy, no points were assigned to this project.

Based on the prioritization list, SCAG will be able to fully fund two ATP projects with Orange County's share of the regional ATP funds. The two projects will provide bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements in the City of Santa Ana, along West Willits Street (\$2.97 million) and Davis Elementary School (\$5.75 million). Any remaining ATP funds, currently estimated to be \$0.22 million, will be used towards the next highest scoring project that can provide the supplemental match to deliver the original scope of work. Currently, the next highest scoring projects are the County of Orange's (County) Hazard Avenue Bikeway Project for \$3.56 million, the City of Buena Park's SRTS improvements

for \$1.64 million, and the County's OC Loop Coyote Creek Bikeway (Segments O, P, Q) for \$11.12 million. The local agency will be required to submit a resolution from their city council or Board of Supervisors committing the required supplemental match to fully fund the project.

The ATP has an expedited delivery time frame and it is possible that some projects may not be able to meet those dates. In recognition of this risk, the SCAG regional programming framework requires OCTA to submit a contingency list of projects from those projects not selected for funding. The contingency list will allow OCTA to substitute any of the unfunded projects that are ready to proceed, in case awarded projects are not able to proceed.

Funds made available through project cancellations or savings, depending on the timing, will first be directed to the threshold project. Any remaining funds would go to projects on the contingency list, subject to CTC approval.

### **Summary**

On October 10, 2016, the OCTA Board adopted the ATP local project prioritization methodology. On December 8, 2016, the CTC awarded ATP funds to statewide projects. Staff has assigned points to the Orange County projects that were not funded through the statewide call, consistent with the Board-approved ATP local project prioritization methodology. The project scores will be submitted to SCAG for consideration of funds through the MPO call.

### **Attachments**

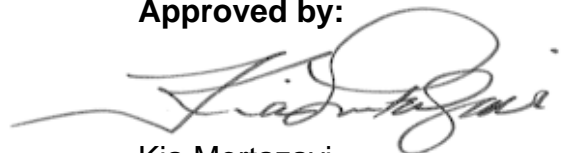
- A. Active Transportation Program Fact Sheet
- B. ATP Cycle 3 – Orange County Regional Projects (in 000's)
- C. Orange County Transportation Authority-Adopted – Active Transportation Program Project Prioritization Methodology

**Prepared by:**



Louis Zhao  
Section Manager, Transit and Local  
Transportation Programming  
(714) 560-5494

**Approved by:**



Kia Mortazavi  
Executive Director, Planning  
(714) 560-5741