



November 16, 2017

To: Legislative and Communications Committee
From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Orange County Transportation Authority 2017-18 State and Federal Legislative Platforms

Overview

The final drafts of the revised 2017-18 Orange County Transportation Authority State and Federal Legislative Platforms are submitted for consideration and adoption by the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors.

Recommendations

- A. Adopt the revised 2017-18 State and Federal Legislative Platforms.
- B. Direct staff to distribute the adopted platforms to elected officials, advisory committees, local governments, affected agencies, the business community, and other interested parties.

Background

The annual Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) State and Federal Legislative Platforms (Platforms) are developed as a resource for the OCTA Board of Directors (Board), Orange County state and federal legislative delegation members, and OCTA staff. They serve as guides to communicate OCTA's legislative and regulatory priorities to both the state and federal government. Official OCTA legislative positions not directly addressed by the Platforms will be brought to the Board for separate action during the legislative sessions of the United States Congress and the California State Legislature.

The first drafts of the 2017-18 Platforms were reviewed and approved for further circulation by the Legislative and Communications Committee (Committee) on September 21, 2017, and by the Board at its September 25, 2017, meeting. Since these initial reviews, and after receiving additional feedback, the Platforms have been refined further and are included as strikeout versions in Attachments A and B.

The edits described in this staff report represent changes necessitated midway through the two-year legislative session to address issues that have arisen since the initial adoption of the Platforms. Next year, when a new two-year legislative session begins, the development of the 2019-20 OCTA Platforms will include a widespread expanded input solicitation process with outreach to interested groups and individuals, thus allowing for a more comprehensive update.

Sponsor Legislation

Under the direction of the Board, staff has engaged in numerous meetings with private and public stakeholders on OCTA's immediate and long-term challenges regarding the tax structure for the Local Transportation Fund (LTF). Before the end of the calendar year, the California State Auditor is expected to be finalizing and releasing an audit of information related to the California Board of Equalization's assessment and distribution of the LTF sales and use tax. These findings may lead to a legislative or regulatory strategy to bring long-term stability to Orange County's LTF. No sponsor bill is currently proposed for the 2017-18 legislative session at this time, but as developments in this effort arise, staff will update the Committee and the Board on the need for direction on this matter.

2017-18 OCTA State Legislative Platform

The final proposed revisions to the 2017-18 OCTA State Legislative Platform are summarized below and detailed as a strikeout version in Attachment A.

- The section entitled "Implementation of Environmental Regulations and Cap-and-Trade" was updated to reflect cap-and-trade legislation enacted last year, including AB 398 (Chapter 135, Statutes of 2017), which extended the program until 2031, and AB 134 (Chapter 254, Statutes of 2017), the 2017-18 expenditure plan.
- The language supporting the development of alternative definitions for "disadvantaged communities" was moved from Subsection (e) of the section entitled "Implementation of Environmental Regulations and Cap-and-Trade" to Subsection (i) of the section entitled "Transportation Funding." This definition has resulted in areas being passed over for cap-and-trade funds despite air quality challenges. The funding distortions are exacerbated by the definition's use in SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) implementation. Moving the platform language allows OCTA to engage more broadly in efforts to ensure that funding flows to each region's most impacted communities. This section was also

amended to include the development of alternative definitions for “low-income” communities within the scope of these efforts.

2017-18 Federal Legislative Platform

The final proposed revisions to the 2017-18 OCTA Federal Legislative Platform are summarized below and detailed as a strikeout version in Attachment B.

- Section II, entitled “Advocacy Efforts for Implementation of Existing and Planned Federal Highway and Transit or Rail Programs,” was updated to reflect regulatory changes to the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program.
- Subsection (f) of Section III, entitled “Economic Impact Legislation and Regulations,” was updated to specifically address the effect of low- and zero-emission vehicles on transportation funding.

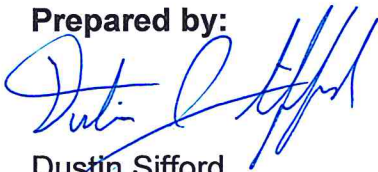
Summary

The 2017-18 OCTA State and Federal Legislative Platforms are presented for consideration and adoption.

Attachments

- A. Draft Orange County Transportation Authority 2017-18 State Legislative Platform (strikeout version)
- B. Draft Orange County Transportation Authority 2017-18 Federal Legislative Platform (strikeout version)

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