



May 7, 2018

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with the California Highway Patrol for Services Related to the Freeway Service Patrol Program

Overview

The Orange County Freeway Service Patrol program is supervised by the California Highway Patrol, in accordance with state law. To ensure adequate supervision and provide dispatch services during hours of operation, approval of a cooperative agreement with the California Highway Patrol is requested to pay for the cost of officer overtime and a full-time dispatcher position.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-8-1553 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the California Highway Patrol, in the amount of \$476,376, for overtime related to supervision of the Freeway Service Patrol program and to provide for a full-time non-uniformed Public Safety Dispatcher.

Discussion

The Orange County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) operates Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) in coordination with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Caltrans' role includes:

- Developing and administering state annual funding for FSP
- Conducting special studies in support of cost-effective operations
- Collection of statewide performance measure data

CHP's role includes:

- Supervising FSP field operations
- Training FSP personnel as necessary
- Conducting background investigations
- Performing real-time dispatching for FSP
- Developing standard operating procedures for FSP

Caltrans provides funding to CHP through the State Highway Account (SHA) for FSP supervision and training. The amount of funding is limited and currently funds three CHP officers in Orange County. To ensure adequate supervision and the provision of mandatory training, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has regularly entered into agreements with CHP to pay for officer overtime related to activities during operational hours of FSP. These operational hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The proposed cooperative agreement includes 800 hours of overtime per year for fiscal years (FY) 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21. CHP will provide OCTA with reports of overtime worked, including the reason for the overtime. OCTA will reimburse CHP for actual overtime worked by CHP officers necessary to provide supervision during FSP operating hours. Overtime cost is estimated to be \$205,432 for the three-year period.

On May 14, 2012, the OCTA Board of Directors authorized funding a full-time non-uniformed public safety dispatcher in accordance with guidelines for Measure M2 (M2) Project N funding as presented in Attachment A. Public safety dispatchers are non-uniformed personnel who transmit calls to FSP operators, serve as the link between FSP operation and CHP traffic officers, and monitor FSP operator location during assists and breaks. As new FSP programs began in other areas of the state and SHA funding stayed at the same level, Orange County's CHP support decreased from three full-time officers and one full-time public safety dispatcher to three full-time officers and one 20-hour per week public safety dispatcher. As a result, the Orange County FSP program no longer has a dedicated dispatcher during peak-hour service to facilitate efficient operations. All FSP radio calls are answered as a third priority behind 911 and CHP patrol officer calls.

During peak-hour service, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., there are 34 FSP vehicles providing service. To ensure that FSP operators have the dispatch support needed to provide efficient congestion relief service during the most congested commute hours, staff proposes to continue to fund a full-time dedicated public safety dispatcher with M2 Project N funds. This position will

give priority to FSP dispatch duties. The cost of a full-time public safety dispatcher is estimated to be \$270,944 for the three-year period.

The costs for CHP overtime and a public safety dispatcher are consistent with the Comprehensive Business Plan, and funding is available for these services.

Fiscal Impact

The costs for the public safety dispatcher and CHP officer overtime are included in the OCTA Proposed FY 2018-19 Budget, Motorist Services Department – Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies Fund, Account 0013-7629-FN001-AVW and is funded through M2 Local Transportation Authority.

Future year costs will be included in the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 budgets.

Summary

Based on the information provided, staff recommends execution of Cooperative Agreement No. C-8-1553 with CHP, in the amount of \$476,376, for overtime related to supervision of the FSP program and to provide for a full-time non-uniformed public safety dispatcher.

Attachment

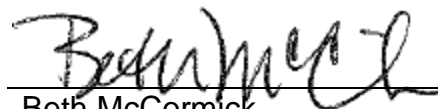
- A. Renewed Measure M Project N Guidelines, Freeway Service Patrol Project

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