

DRAFT Innovation Framework



Innovation is about developing better solutions for Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)-related projects and services. Better solutions may include making a process more efficient (e.g., reducing time and/or cost) by technology or other means. Alternatively, innovation may include developing effective strategies to address old or new issues (e.g., new transit service to address changing markets). Innovation is both a process and a product that should occur in the context of public policies that consider efficiency, effectiveness, and equity (who pays and who benefits), among others.

This framework was developed for OCTA to consider whether the organization should monitor, shape, test, or implement specific innovation concepts. Monitoring would entail keeping abreast of new developments through industry forums and meetings. Shaping would include providing feedback and recommended best practices and policies on specific innovation efforts. Testing would involve pilot projects for potential future deployment at a broader scale. Implementation would take shelf-ready efforts to full deployment, contingent on funding availability and policy direction.

For each innovation, consider the questions below, and develop recommendations to monitor, shape, test or implement the concept, or elements of the concept, as well as how often these questions should be revisited.

Relevance

1. What specific transportation problem is being addressed?
2. How does the concept align with OCTA's authority/responsibilities?

Risks/Rewards

3. What are the risks/rewards and costs/benefits?
4. What does existing research indicate about the concept?
5. How can risks be mitigated?
6. Can it be tested through a pilot project?
7. Can it be scaled-up following a pilot project?
8. What are the measures/metrics of success?

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Complexity

9. How complex (technically, institutionally, etc.) is the concept to OCTA as an organization?
10. How complex is the concept to vendors, suppliers, or other partners (e.g., cities, etc.)?
11. How could the concept be integrated into OCTA functions?

Readiness

12. What deliverables comprise the start, middle, and end?
13. How might the concept evolve over time? Will it be obsolete quickly?
14. Is the concept actionable now for implementation? If not, what are the barriers?
15. Who is the project sponsor (who will implement, operate or fund)?