



June 20, 2019

To: Legislative and Communications Committee
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Update and New Member Recruitment

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to provide feedback on significant transportation issues, help identify opportunities for community input, and serve as a public liaison for the Orange County Transportation Authority. A summary of the committee's activities during the past year and the new member appointment status is provided with this report.

Recommendation

Receive and file the Citizens Advisory Committee status report.

Background

In its role as county transportation commission, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is required by the Public Utilities Code (PUC) 130105 to appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input on transportation projects, programs, services, and outreach activities. The PUC states that the commission shall "appoint...a citizens advisory committee, which membership shall reflect a broad spectrum of interests and all geographic areas of the county." The CAC is structured such that each OCTA Board of Directors (Board) member appoints two citizens to serve, creating a 34-member committee representing diverse interests and geographic areas of Orange County.

To carry out the CAC's mission, ongoing responsibilities include:

- Commenting on significant transportation issues, suggesting possible solutions, and making recommendations to the Board when appropriate;
- Identifying opportunities for community input;
- Recommending mechanisms and methodologies for obtaining public opinion on specific transportation issues;
- Serving as a liaison between the public and OCTA.

In addition, the CAC has formed a Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee, which meets quarterly to review items and issues related specifically to active transportation, and a Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee, which meets as needed to review new ideas focused on technological advances and innovations that could help improve Orange County's transportation system.

Discussion

As an advisory body, members' comments and suggestions help shape OCTA's services and communications to be responsive and user-friendly to the public. The wide range of viewpoints and interests represented by the membership also provides OCTA with an added sounding board for prospective programs and initiatives. Director Gregory T. Winterbottom regularly attends meetings, providing guidance and sharing his insights with the committee.

CAC input is communicated to the Board in a variety of ways. Members' feedback on projects and initiatives is incorporated as programs develop, which is often noted in project staff reports. As direct appointees of the Board, CAC members are also encouraged to communicate directly with their appointing Board Member. Additionally, Director Winterbottom relays CAC feedback to the Board as appropriate. In addition, the CAC chairman is invited to share the committee's activities and recommendations with the Board annually.

During the past year, the CAC met four times to review and provide feedback on a variety of OCTA programs and topics. Key activities for this past year included:

- Reviewing and commenting on the Long Range Transportation Plan;
- Providing insight on Beach Boulevard and Bristol Street corridor studies;
- Commenting on OCTA's state and federal legislative platform;
- Discussing the progress of OC Streetcar and branding efforts;
- Providing feedback on the OC Flex Pilot Program and marketing;
- Commenting on the OCTA Attitudinal and Awareness Study Findings;
- Exploring the fiscal year 2019-20 Bus Service Plan and looking at the status of Community Based Transit/Circulators;
- Receiving updates on sales tax forecasts and from OCTA's Environmental Mitigation Program;
- Supporting the pursuit of OC Go, Measure M2's new branding identity;
- Receiving updates on the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project activities and providing feedback on the new mobile application.

CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee

During the past year, the CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee met three times to give feedback on ways to better incorporate bicycle commuting as an alternative mode of transportation, and to emphasize the need to consider bicycle lanes and cyclist and pedestrian safety when making transportation improvements throughout Orange County.

The subcommittee reviewed and provided feedback on a variety of capital projects, including State Route 57 (Orangewood to Katella), State Route 91 Improvement Project (State Route 57 to State Route 55), El Toro Interchange Project, and the I-405 Improvement Project. Additional items reviewed by the subcommittee include marketing activities and campaigns (e.g. Rideshare Week, Bike Month), planning studies (OC Active Plan, Active Transportation Counts Study, etc.), and recent and upcoming grant opportunities.

Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee

During the past year, the Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee met once. The Ad Hoc Committee discussed the OCTA mobile ticketing application, provided feedback on dockless scooters, and reviewed updates regarding zero emission buses. The Ad Hoc Committee also looked at market research and technology for OCTA's Micro Transit Pilot (OC Flex).

New Member Recruitment

CAC members serve staggered two-year terms from July through June, and each year every Board Member has one CAC member whose term expires on June 30. Committee members can serve unlimited terms. In February, each committee member with an expiring term was contacted to see if they were interested in continuing to serve. In addition, announcements were made seeking potential applicants by including articles on OCTA's blog, posting videos and application information to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; and sending information to media, city contacts, and local organizations to publish and include in their newsletters.

The opportunity to reappoint interested members for an additional term, along with resignations, was presented to each OCTA Board Member and their staff starting in April. The recruitment is now complete. Board Members have either reappointed existing members, appointed new members to begin service on July 1, 2019, or have appointments pending (Attachment A).

To show OCTA's appreciation to members whose terms have expired, resolutions of appreciation are being prepared to thank them for their contribution.

Summary

The CAC plays a vital role in OCTA's efforts to incorporate public feedback into the agency's transportation decision-making process. CAC members have contributed substantially to OCTA in the past year. With the recruitment process for fiscal year 2019-20 now complete, OCTA Board members have either reappointed existing CAC members or appointed new members. To thank members who are not continuing on the committee, resolutions of appreciation are being prepared.

Attachments

- A. Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee Roster Fiscal Year 2019-20

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