



July 1, 2019

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Grant Acceptance for the Safe Travels Education Program and the Freeway Bus Rapid Transit Concept Study

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority was recently awarded \$500,000 for the Safe Travels Education Program through the statewide Active Transportation Program, Cycle 4, and \$210,602 for the Freeway Bus Rapid Transit Concept Study through the statewide Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. In order to utilize these grants, staff is seeking Board of Directors' approval to accept the awards and enter into agreements with the granting agencies.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to accept the Active Transportation Program grant award and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the California Department of Transportation and the Southern California Association of Governments.
- B. Adopt Orange County Transportation Authority Resolution No. 2019-059 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to accept the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant award and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the California Department of Transportation and the Southern California Association of Governments.
- C. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to amend the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and process all necessary amendments to facilitate the recommendation above.

Background

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) was created to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and bicycling. On May 16, 2018, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) issued a statewide competitive call for projects (call), which made available approximately \$439.6 million in federal and state funding. In response to this opportunity, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) submitted the Safe Travels Education Program (STEP) Campaign application requesting \$500,000.

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant was created to support the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) mission to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. On January 5, 2018, Caltrans issued a statewide call, which made available approximately \$40.8 million for Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant programs. In response to this opportunity, OCTA submitted the Freeway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Concept Study application requesting \$210,602.

Discussion

ATP

The STEP Campaign application was submitted to the ATP, Cycle 4, call on July 31, 2018. The CTC approved funding for the project on May 15, 2019. OCTA will collaborate with the Orange County Health Care Agency to administer the STEP Campaign, which includes activities such as safety training at school assemblies, walk/bike to school day training events, and classroom/blacktop training activities directed to both students (during and after school) and families (on nights or weekends) at 25 public elementary schools in Orange County. The STEP Campaign will also engage with local city staff and police departments to successfully promote and leverage education and encouragement activities for walking and biking to/from school by youth. The award of the \$500,000 supports the project in its entirety.

Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants

The Freeway BRT Concept Study application was submitted to Caltrans for the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grants on November 30, 2018. On May 27, 2019, OCTA was notified that Caltrans selected the project for funding. Building on prior studies by OCTA, Caltrans, and the Southern California Association of Governments, the study will develop a conceptual plan for two Freeway BRT routes on Interstate 5 and State Route 55 that were identified as high priority BRT corridors in the Orange County Transit Vision (Orange County Transit Master Plan). BRT is a high-frequency, limited-stop bus service with improved passenger amenities to improve headways. The BRT concept envisions operating in high-occupancy vehicle or managed lanes on freeways and may examine stopping at existing transit hubs or at new stations in the freeway right-of-way. Stations could be located to connect with key transit routes, including the Amtrak and Metrolink commuter rail service. The study will identify short- and long-term recommendations for project implementation. The award of \$210,602 will be matched with \$27,398 State Transportation Improvement Program Planning, Programming, and Monitoring funds, for a total project cost of \$238,000, and will support the project in its entirety. In order to execute the grant agreement, OCTA must approve Resolution 2019-059 (Attachment A).

Next Steps

Following execution of the CTC ATP and Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grants, staff will follow OCTA's procurement process to award professional services contracts in the fall and winter of 2019.

Summary

OCTA was awarded \$710,602 for two competitive grants from the CTC and Caltrans. A resolution to accept one grant award and authorization to enter into grant-related agreements and documents is presented for adoption as required by each grant program.

Attachment

- A. Resolution No. 2019-059 of the Orange County Transportation Authority,
2019-2020 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program
Authorization

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