




August 5, 2019

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Measure M2 Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs - 2020 Annual Call for Projects

Overview

The Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines provide the mechanism for administration of the annual competitive call for projects for Measure M2 programs, including the countywide Regional Capacity Program (Project O) and the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P). The 2020 Regional Capacity Program and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program call for projects is presented for review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines.
- B. Authorize staff to issue the 2020 annual call for projects for the Regional Capacity Program.
- C. Authorize staff to issue the 2020 annual call for projects for the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program.

Background

The Regional Capacity Program (RCP) provides Measure M2 (M2) Project O funding for improvements to the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways. The program also provides for intersection improvements and other projects to help improve street operations and reduce congestion.

The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (RTSSP) provides M2 Project P funding for multi-agency, corridor-based signal synchronization throughout Orange County.

These programs allocate funds through a competitive call for projects (call) process and target projects that improve traffic by considering factors, such as degree of congestion relief, cost-effectiveness, and project readiness.

The Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP) document serves as the mechanism with which the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) staff administer the RCP and RTSSP call, as well as other competitive transit (projects S, T, and V) and environmental cleanup programs (Project X).

The CTFP Guidelines (Guidelines) identify procedures and requirements that local agencies must follow in order to apply for M2 funding (and following award of funds) in order to seek reimbursement. These Guidelines were first approved by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) on March 22, 2010, and were most recently updated and approved in August 2019.

Discussion

Updates to the Guidelines have been prepared in anticipation of the Board's authorization of the upcoming 2020 annual call for the RCP and RTSSP. OCTA worked closely with the Technical Steering Committee (TSC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to determine areas of the Guidelines that needed to be adjusted and/or updated. Issues and lessons learned from previous calls were also reviewed and considered. The Guidelines were reviewed and updated, as appropriate, to provide for better consistency and streamlining throughout the document.

The most significant proposed changes include the following:

- Project O
 - Revised the point spread for economic effectiveness in the scoring criteria.
 - Clarified ineligibility of gateway treatments.
- Project P
 - Noted that OCTA-led projects are not available for this call.
 - Revised total number of corridors per project from two to three.
 - Revised description of eligible activities so that the activities are clearer to applicants.
 - Clarified the maximum amount of fiber capacity that is required to support a M2 Project P traffic signal synchronization project.
 - Included three new eligible project features for project characteristics.

A more detailed summary of proposed changes is included in Attachment A, which provides a table of proposed changes, as well as Attachment B, which provides a marked-up version of the Guidelines. Proposed changes that were deemed to be non-substantive (i.e. wording/grammatical, streamlining, and clarifications) are generally not identified.

These proposed changes were recommended for Board approval by the OCTA TSC and TAC in July and are now being submitted for Board final consideration and approval. For this call, staff is proposing to set a target of \$32 million for Project O, and \$8 million for Project P. This is consistent with previous call amounts.

Next Steps

If the Board approves these recommendations and authorizes the 2020 call for the RCP and RTSSP, staff will send out letters and e-blast announcements notifying local agencies of the call's initiation and any other pertinent information. Applications would be due to OCTA by October 24, 2019, and based upon project selection criteria as specified in the Guidelines, projects will be prioritized for Board, TAC, and TSC consideration in spring 2020. Project funds, if awarded, would become available to local agencies starting July 1, 2020, and may be programmed as late as fiscal year 2022-23.

Summary

M2 provides funds for intersection and arterial improvements through the RCP and signal synchronization through the RTSSP to enhance both street operations and reduce congestion. The Guidelines serve as the mechanism that OCTA uses to administer competitive RCP and RTSSP funds. Proposed changes to the Guidelines were presented and approved by the TAC on July 24, 2019, and staff is now seeking approval of proposed modifications to the Guidelines and authorization to release the 2020 annual call.

Attachments

- A. 2020 CTFP Guidelines (Projects O and P) – Proposed Changes List
- B. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, Guidelines Excerpt,
Proposed Revisions

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