



October 10, 2019

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Programming Recommendation for the City of Laguna Niguel
Project V Service

Overview

In June 2018, the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors approved a third Measure M2 Project V call for projects. At that time, the Board of Directors requested that staff work with the City of Laguna Niguel on refinements to its proposed Project V service application and return at a later date with programming recommendations, if applicable. These efforts are now complete, and recommendations are presented for Board of Directors' review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve Project V funding in the amount of \$886,082 for the City of Laguna Niguel's Trolley.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a cooperative funding agreement with the City of Laguna Niguel to support implementation of its proposed new Project V service.

Background

The Community-Based Transit Circulator Program (Project V) under Measure M2 (M2) provides funding to jurisdictions seeking to implement local transit services, which complement regional bus and rail service, while also meeting local needs in areas that may not be adequately served by regional transit. Project V provides funding opportunities for both capital, operations, and maintenance, and is subject to minimum performance requirements, which are reported semi-annually to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board). To date, three M2 Project V calls for projects (call) have been issued, approximately \$42 million in M2 Project V funds have been awarded by the Board, and 19 services are currently active. After accounting for cancellations, approximately \$30 million in total funding allocations have been committed to Project V to date.

Discussion

On June 25, 2018, the OCTA Board awarded Project V funds to five local agency projects as part of a third M2 Project V call. At that time, the City of Laguna Niguel's (City) application was not recommended for funding, primarily due to the need to further develop and refine the proposed service's operating scope and funding assumptions. However, as part of its action, the Board directed staff continue working with the City on refinements to its proposal and to return at a later date with a programming recommendation, if ultimately appropriate.

Since that time, OCTA has met with the City to discuss and provide feedback on the proposed application. During each of these meetings, the City was receptive to OCTA's input and secured technical expertise to further refine the service concept and application.

In July, the City submitted a revised application to OCTA. After some initial clarifications, OCTA reviewed and scored the revised application and has now deemed the proposed service to be consistent with the overall objectives and intent of M2 Project V. Key revisions to the application included the following:

- Better defined scope of services (i.e. type of service, routing, and schedule),
- Better definition of proposed special event service types, parking lot availability (and capacity), and Americans with Disabilities Act considerations and proposed accommodations,
- More well-developed financial assumptions based upon typical costs and input from a potential vendor,
- Stronger coordination with currently active south Orange County Project V services, and
- Routing and level of service that considers previously successful Project V services.

Given these revisions, a programming recommendation of \$886,082 in M2 Project V funds to support capital (\$218,160) and operations and maintenance (\$667,992) is now recommended for Board approval.

Details on funding for the proposed service can be found in Attachment A, and for more details on proposed service components, see Attachment B.

Next Steps

Upon Board approval of the recommendations, staff will negotiate and execute a cooperative agreement with the City to determine roles and responsibilities with respect to service implementation, reimbursement, and payment processes. The City is anticipated to start the service in May 2020.

OCTA will continue to provide technical input on the service to the City, upon request. Staff will also monitor the service and report on overall performance as part of twice yearly M2 Project V ridership reporting to the OCTA Board.

Summary

In 2018, the OCTA Board directed staff to continue working with the City on revisions to its M2 Project V service proposal and application. These efforts are now complete, and staff is recommending that the Board award M2 Project V capital, operations, and maintenance funds to the City in order support implementation of its proposed M2 Project V service.

Attachments

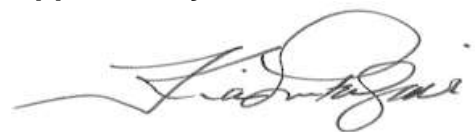
- A. Laguna Niguel Trolley Funding Table
- B. Laguna Niguel Trolley Proposed Service Description

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