

## **Measure M2 Role Sustainable Communities Strategy**

Measure M2 (M2) is a balanced plan that not only delivers capital improvements but supports and enhances the ability of the Orange County Transportation Authority to meet the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy in Orange County. M2 projects and programs are part of a larger suite of transportation improvements included in the 30-year M2 Plan. More than 50 percent of M2 funds are intended to fulfill transit, system optimization, enhanced environmental elements, and infrastructure preservation goals. In addition, the funding eligibility criteria encourages local agencies to consider accommodations for transit and non-motorized transportation.

The M2 Program was publicly reviewed through a Program Environmental Impact Report prior to voters approving the ballot measure in November 2006. Since 2008, the M2 Program has been included in the regional transportation plans, Sustainable Communities Strategies, and the associated program environmental impact reports prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments .

In addition to funding freeway improvements, the M2 Program dedicates funding for many transit and local street improvement projects. These include improvements, such as:

- New transit connections between major Orange County activity areas that reduce the need for short automobile trips;
- Enhanced convenience and reliability for bus services and Metrolink commuter rail to encourage transit as a dependable commute option;
- Local funding for development of multimodal corridors and roadway preservation that improves the quality of mobility for all users; and,
- Signal synchronization on 750 miles of roadways throughout Orange County to reduce congestion and tailpipe emissions.

The Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program has preserved 1,300 acres of wild lands that will be converted to the Preserves to enhance connectivity and wildlife movement between existing conservation areas - such as the Cleveland National Forest, the Chino Hills State Park, and the Irvine Ranch Conservancy lands - and to coastal areas. Furthermore, the program also provides critical habitat for endangered or listed species. Additionally, since M2 inception the Environmental Cleanup Program has funded nearly 200 projects, totaling over \$51.8 million to treat storm water runoff, and help keep waterways and beaches clean in Orange County. The aforementioned transit, local streets, and environmental programs collectively contribute to and enhance the quality of life, as well as provide a sustainable future, and an efficient transportation system that benefits the region.

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Brief summaries of the specific programs are listed below.

- ✓ Projects A through N – Freeway improvements and Freeway Service Patrol to provide emission reductions through congestion relief.
- ✓ Project O and Project P – Signal synchronization and street improvements that provide emission reductions through congestion relief and allow for bike and pedestrian project elements as appropriate.
- ✓ Project Q – Local funding for city-selected transportation projects that provides for preservation of the streets and roads system and flexibility to accommodate bike, pedestrian, water quality, and transit enhancements as eligible expenditures.
- ✓ Project R – Expanded Metrolink train capacity including improvements to stations and parking to improve transit reliability and convenience and reduce reliance on highways while also supporting potential transit-oriented development.
- ✓ Project S – Transit extensions to improve access between Metrolink stations and residential/employment centers, and provide an alternative to driving.
- ✓ Project T – Station improvements to connect to planned future high-speed rail services.
- ✓ Project U – Sustain mobility choices for seniors and persons with disabilities and provides an alternative to driving.
- ✓ Project V – Community-based circulators to complement regional transit services with local communities and provides an alternative to driving.
- ✓ Project W – Transit stop improvements to support transfers between major bus lines, and support the implementation of mobile ticketing to ensure ease of fare purchase and convenience for bus passengers.
- ✓ Project X – Water quality improvement programs/projects to meet federal Clean Water Act standards for urban runoff, and augment required mitigations.
- ✓ Freeway Mitigation Program – Natural resource protection strategy to provide for more comprehensive mitigation of environmental impacts from M2 freeway improvements.