



January 6, 2020

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

J. Kenneth Papp for

Subject: Measure M2 Performance Assessment Report Update

Overview

Measure M2 includes a requirement for a performance assessment to be conducted every three years to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, economy, and program results of the Orange County Transportation Authority in delivering Measure M2. The fourth of these performance assessments, covering the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, was completed and presented to the Board of Directors on March 11, 2019. This report is the final update on the action items from the recommendations for enhancements identified in the performance assessment.

Recommendation

Receive and file as an information item.

Background

On November 7, 2006, the voters of Orange County approved the Measure M2 (M2) Transportation Investment Plan (Plan) with a 69.7 percent vote. The Plan provides a revenue stream, from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2041, to fund a broad range of transportation improvements. The M2 Ordinance specifies specific safeguards and requirements that are to be followed.

Ordinance No. 3 states: "A performance assessment shall be conducted at least once every three years to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, economy, and program results of the Authority in satisfying the provisions and requirements of the investment summary of the Plan, the Plan, and the ordinance."

The fourth triennial performance assessment, covering the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, was presented to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) on March 11, 2019, as well as to the Taxpayers Oversight Committee (TOC) on April 9, 2019.

The performance assessment included eight recommendations for enhancements, and staff provided the Board with an action plan in response to the recommendations, with a commitment to report implementation progress to the Board in the M2 quarterly reports.

Discussion

The key objectives of the fourth assessment were as follows: to evaluate the status of findings from the prior M2 performance assessment and the effectiveness of changes implemented, assess the performance of OCTA on the efficient delivery of M2 projects and programs, and identify and evaluate any potential barriers to success, including opportunities for process improvements. In addition to reviewing the prior assessment findings and OCTA-related actions, five main areas of focus were identified for the assessment:

- Project delivery
- Program management/responsiveness
- Compliance
- Fiscal responsibility
- Transparency and accountability

Overall, the fiscal year (FY) 2015-16 through FY 2017-18 assessment commended OCTA's commitment to the effective and efficient management and delivery of the M2 Program. In general, the assessment report found that OCTA is either where it should be or has accomplished more than what would be assumed in the seven-year period across all M2 program areas.

As part of the report, there were eight recommendations for enhancements related to the execution of the elements outlined in the scope of work. There were no major recommendations that suggested there should be a change in the direction of OCTA's actions.

Below are the key areas the recommendations focused on, along with a summary of the action that staff has implemented.

- To continue to increase awareness of M2, staff has restructured the M website to highlight the balanced Plan of multi-modal transportation improvements. In addition, a section was added to the M website that provides progress updates towards the six key M2 Ordinance goals of relieving congestion, fixing potholes and resurfacing streets, reducing air and water pollution, synchronizing traffic lights, expanding Metrolink, and providing transit at reduced rates to seniors and persons with disabilities.

- To enhance quantitatively tracking data in all programs, staff collaborated to create a methodology that is currently being implemented as appropriate to capture project outputs and accomplishments against the Plan.
- The assessment also recommended that a stronger link between capital project selection and implementation be formally memorialized. The updated 2019 Next 10 Delivery Plan referenced the guiding principles when recommending advancement of select projects from the environmental phase into design and construction.
- To enhance transparency with the public, staff has incorporated more M2 information in social media to bring more awareness to the program and added short biographies for the TOC members to highlight experience and expertise of those providing oversight.

A table outlining the overall M2 Performance Assessment findings, as well as the completed action, can be found in Attachment A.

Summary

The fourth M2 Performance Assessment, as required by Ordinance No. 3, was completed and presented to the Board on March 11, 2019. Eight recommendations for enhancements were made to which staff responded and developed an action plan. Since then, all eight findings have been addressed. A summary of all findings and action items is included in Attachment A.

Attachment

- A. July 2015 – June 2018 M2 Performance Assessment, Recommendations and Action Plan

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