



May 3, 2021

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – 2021 Call for Projects Programming Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority issued the 2021 annual Measure M2 Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, Regional Capacity Program, and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program call for projects in August 2020. This call for projects made available up to \$30 million in Measure M2 competitive grant funding for regional roadway capacity and signal synchronization projects countywide. A list of projects recommended for funding is presented for Board of Directors' review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the award of \$20.2 million in 2021 Measure M2 Regional Capacity Program (Project O) funds to nine projects.
- B. Approve the award of \$8.5 million in 2021 Measure M2 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P) funds to three projects.

Background

The Regional Capacity Program (RCP) (Project O) is the Measure M2 (M2) competitive funding program through which the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) supports streets and roads capital projects to relieve congestion. The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (RTSSP) (Project P) is the M2 competitive program, which provides funding for signal synchronization projects.

Both programs are included in the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP). The CTFP allocates funds through an annual competitive call for projects (call) based on a common set of guidelines and scoring criteria.

The CTFP Guidelines (Guidelines) are developed in collaboration with OCTA's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which includes representatives from all of Orange County's 34 cities and the County of Orange, collectively referred to as local jurisdictions, and are ultimately approved by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board). The Guidelines for the 2021 call were approved by the Board on August 10, 2020. At that meeting, the Board also authorized the issuance of the current call, making available up to \$30 million in M2 competitive funds available to support regional roadway capacity and signal synchronization projects throughout Orange County.

Discussion

RCP

OCTA received 12 applications requesting a total of \$27.2 million in RCP funds (Attachment A). Applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency, adherence to the Guidelines, and compliance with M2 Program objectives. Applications were evaluated and ranked based on the scoring criteria identified in the approved program Guidelines. During the review process, staff worked with local jurisdictions to address technical issues, such as corrections to the applications, scope clarifications, and refinement of final project funding requests.

Based upon these reviews, one application was deemed ineligible to compete due to low traffic count volumes, and two applications from one local jurisdiction were withdrawn from consideration. All the remaining applications were deemed to be competitive and are recommended for funding. A summary of these recommendations is included in Attachment B. In total, the recommendation includes \$20.2 million (with inflationary adjustments as appropriate) in M2 funding commitments to support nine RCP project applications in the cities of Garden Grove, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, Yorba Linda, and the County of Orange.

Of the nine recommended projects, five will provide arterial capacity improvement benefits with engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction phase allocations, and four will provide intersection capacity enhancements with engineering and construction phase allocations. Implementation of these projects is anticipated to produce congestion-reducing benefits while also enhancing the arterial system overall, all of which are consistent with the goals outlined in the Guidelines.

RTSSP

OCTA received six applications through the RTSSP requesting a total of \$15.2 million in funding. Attachment A includes a summary of each of the six applications. All RTSSP applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency, adherence to the guidelines, and overall program objectives. Staff worked with the local jurisdictions to address technical issues primarily related to construction unit cost refinements as well as project scope clarifications. Attachment C includes proposed programming recommendations per the 2021 Guidelines.

The recommended program of projects will provide \$8.5 million in programming to support three RTSSP projects. This is slightly higher than the Board's authorized funding amount of \$8 million. However, this higher programming amount provides funding to include three well-scoring projects without requiring any reduction to scope to meet the available M2 budget. Together, these projects will improve regional throughput on three key arterial roadways in the cities of Irvine, Lake Forest, and Santa Ana, as well as in several immediately adjacent communities.

Three other RTSSP applications could not be funded due to funding availability. These projects were deemed to be competitive and are encouraged to reapply in the next (or a future) call.

Finally, the table below provides a summary of the total proposed funding recommendations for the 2021 CTFP call.

2021 CTFP Call Summary (\$ in millions)			
	RCP	RTSSP	Total
Number of Applications Received	12	6	18
Funding Request	\$27.2	\$15.2	\$42.4
Number of Recommended Applications	9	3	12
Amount Recommended for Approval (escalated as appropriate)	\$20.2	\$8.5	\$28.7

These recommendations are consistent with the 2021 Guidelines approved by the Board and were approved by both the OCTA Technical Steering Committee and TAC in March 2021.

Next Steps

With Board approval of these recommendations, staff will initiate the execution of letter agreements between OCTA and appropriate local jurisdictions. Once

these agreements are executed, awarded local jurisdictions can proceed and will be authorized to seek M2 reimbursement for their respective eligible project costs.

Summary

Proposed programming recommendations for the M2 2021 RCP and RTSSP calls have been developed. Funding for 12 projects, totaling \$28.7 million in M2 funds is proposed, and Board approval of these recommendations is requested.

Attachments

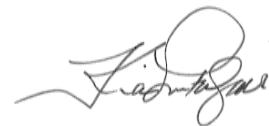
- A. 2021 Measure M2 Call for Projects - Applications Received
- B. 2021 Measure M2 Regional Capacity Program Call for Projects, Programming Recommendations
- C. 2021 Measure M2 Regional Transportation Signal Synchronization Program Call for Projects - Programming Recommendations

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