



May 13, 2021

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Measure M2 Project U Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Funding and Program Guidelines

Overview

Under Measure M2, Project U allocates funding to programs which expand mobility choices for seniors and persons with disabilities. As part of Project U, one percent of the net Measure M2 revenues are specifically designated to supplement the County of Orange Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program. The current cooperative agreement with the County of Orange expires June 30, 2021. Board of Directors' approval is requested for a new agreement and revised program guidelines to continue to provide these non-emergency medical transportation services.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3446 with the County of Orange to continue providing funding for the Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program.
- B. Adopt the revised Measure M2 Project U Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Funding Guidelines.

Background

In 2003, the County of Orange (County) Office on Aging established the Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (SNEMT) program supported with Tobacco Settlement Revenue (TSR) funds. Using two transportation contractors, non-emergency medical transportation services provide seniors with trips to doctor and dental appointments, chemotherapy, dialysis, and pharmacy visits. Measure M2 (M2) includes funding for three programs under Project U to support the growing transportation needs of seniors and persons with disabilities. As part of Project U, one percent of M2 net revenues is designated to support the County's SNEMT program. M2 funding is intended to

supplement existing TSR revenue. As a result, the M2 Ordinance No. 3 stipulates that the County is required to allocate funds to the SNEMT program at the same percentage of TSR funding that was allocated in November 2006. This represents a 5.27 percent allocation of total TSR funding. The County has consistently met this requirement. As of June 30, 2020, the County has contributed more than \$14.5 million in TSR funding to the program. With an additional \$25.4 million in M2 funding provided to support the program, the SNEMT program has provided more than 940,720 trips since 2011.

The cooperative agreement between OCTA and the County establishes SNEMT Guidelines (Guidelines) and outlines the distribution of program funds and reporting requirements. The Guidelines were adopted by the Board of Directors (Board) on February 14, 2011, with the latest revision adopted by the Board on May 9, 2016.

Discussion

The current cooperative agreement with the County will expire on June 30, 2021. In order to continue providing M2 funding to support the SNEMT program, a new agreement (Attachment A) is required. The proposed agreement will continue funding for five years with one, five-year option term.

In addition, revisions to the Guidelines (Attachment B) are needed to modify the conditions under which trip prioritization may be implemented. Section 6.0 in the Service Guidelines currently reflect that the County may initiate trip prioritization if actual expenditures exceed, or are within 25 percent of, the amount of available program funding. This percentage is incorrect, and staff requests the revision to reflect the correct percentage threshold at which trip prioritization may be initiated to 75 percent. Since 2011, the Office of Aging has not initiated trip prioritization, but staff requests the agreement continue to allow for the provision.

OCTA staff continues to work in close collaboration with the County to help meet the growing needs for safe, reliable, and affordable senior transportation service alternatives in Orange County.

Fiscal Impact

Funding to cover the SNEMT program cooperative agreement with the County will be evaluated annually. In doing so, the amount will be budgeted annually as part of the budget, Account No. 0017-7831-TU003-TQK, and will be funded with local M2 funds.

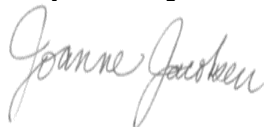
Summary

Staff is seeking Board of Directors' approval for a new cooperative agreement to continue Measure M2 funding to assist the County of Orange in the operation of the Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program. In addition, revisions to the program guidelines have been developed to address the annual distribution of these funds and the required reporting procedures and need to be revised to reflect the new trip prioritization threshold.

Attachments

- A. M2 Project U, Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Funding Guidelines, May 2021
- B. Projected Available Measure M2 Revenues, Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (SNEMT)

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