




June 7, 2021

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Semi-Annual Review – March 2021

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority recently completed the March 2021 semi-annual review of projects funded through the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs. This process reviews the status of Measure M2 grant-funded projects and provides an opportunity for local agencies to update project information and request project modifications. Recommended project adjustments and a proposed Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines exception are presented for review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve requested adjustments to Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs projects, Local Fair Share, and Senior Mobility Program funds.
- B. Due to the impacts of the coronavirus, approve an exception to the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines for Environmental Cleanup Program Tier I projects in order for project award delays to be granted.

Background

The Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP) is the mechanism which the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) uses to administer funding for street and road, signal synchronization, transit, and water quality programs.

The CTFP contains a variety of funding programs and sources, including Measure M2 (M2) revenues, State-Local Partnership Program funds, and Local Partnership Program funds. The CTFP provides local agencies with a comprehensive set of guidelines for the administration and delivery of various transportation funding grants.

Through the semi-annual review, OCTA met with representatives from local jurisdictions, as necessary, to review the status of projects and proposed project changes. This process is known as the semi-annual review. The goals of the semi-annual review are to review project status, determine the continued viability of projects, address local agency concerns, confirm availability of local match funds, ensure timely closeout of all projects funded through the CTFP, and address any other project-related issues or concerns.

Discussion

March 2021 semi-annual review project adjustment requests include the following:

- 16 project delays,
- 11 timely-use of funds extensions for projects funded with competitive funds,
- 9 timely-use of funds extensions for the Local Fair Share Program,
- 16 timely-use of funds extensions for the Senior Mobility Program,
- 10 project scope changes,
- 11 project fund transfers,
- 1 project cancellation, and
- 5 OCTA-initiated project delay requests.

Local jurisdictions reported a variety of issues that have resulted in the need for project adjustments including project delivery challenges, stakeholder coordination issues, right-of-way coordination challenges, project design modifications, equipment procurement/installation delays, and construction delays.

It also appears that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is continuing to impact local jurisdictions' abilities to conduct normal business. For this review cycle, 59 out of a total of 79 project adjustment requests are at least partially COVID-19 related (Attachment A). These impacts were especially evident in project award delay requests and timely-use of funds extension requests.

Staff is recommending Board of Directors (Board) approval of an exception to a CTFP Guidelines requirement specifying that Project X Environmental Cleanup Program (ECP) Tier I projects not be granted delays. Due to COVID-19, it has taken longer than the current one-year expectation articulated in the CTFP Guidelines to award and execute final funding agreements. Board approval will allow five 2020 ECP Tier I awarded projects to be delivered despite delays created by the impacts of COVID-19.

Attachment B includes more detailed information on all proposed semi-annual review project adjustment requests, and Attachment C provides narrative discussions of each respective project adjustment request.

M2 CTFP Summary

The table below is provided for reference and includes a summary of M2 CTFP-funded projects by phase and funding allocation amount. The table also documents programmatic changes that have occurred since the approval of the previous September semi-annual review. Since September 2020, OCTA completed the 2020 ECP Tier I call for projects, which provided \$2.8 million in new M2 Project X funding to 12 projects throughout Orange County. Also since the September semi-annual review, 14 project phases have been completed.

Since M2 inception, OCTA has awarded over \$545 million in competitive funds, including approximately \$38 million in state and federal funds. With reductions in original programming amounts (for various reasons), the total revised M2 allocation through the March 2021 semi-annual review period equals \$546.5 million.

M2 CTFP Summary Table				
Project Status	September 2020 Semi-Annual Review		March 2021 Semi-Annual Review	
	Project Phases	Allocation	Project Phases	Allocations ¹ (after adjustments)
Planned ²	64	\$ 70.5	66	\$ 67.6
Started ³	109	\$174.6	103	\$162.2
Pending ⁴	98	\$ 83.3	107	\$ 88.1
Completed ⁵	383	\$173.9	388	\$177.0
Cancelled ⁶	56	\$ 41.3	58	\$ 51.6
Total	710	\$543.6	722	\$546.5

¹ Allocations in millions, subject to change pending final reconciliation.

² Planned - indicates that funds have not been obligated and/or are pending contract award.

³ Started - indicates that the phase is underway, and funds are obligated.

⁴ Pending - indicates that phase work is completed, and final report submittal/approval is pending.

⁵ Completed - indicates that phase work is complete, final report is approved, and final payment has been made.

⁶ Cancelled - indicates that the phase work will not be completed, and project savings will be returned to the program.

* Note: the project phase and allocations listed above are subject to frequent and regular changes due primarily to project status updates, final reconciliations, and project closeout processes.

As of publishing this report, 495 individual project phases, 107 pending, and 388 completed phases have been constructed as is shown in the table above. This represents a 75 percent project delivery rate, when cancelled projects are excluded. Another 169 project phases, 66 planned, and 103 started, are considered currently active, which represents approximately 25 percent of all project phases when cancelled projects are excluded.

The CTFP semi-annual review process also tracks project cost savings. Since the inception of M2, total accumulated savings have amounted to approximately \$64 million. These savings have been incrementally returned to M2 source programs and are used to support future funding cycles, as appropriate.

Next Steps

From a CTFP administrative perspective, the proposed project adjustments and CTFP Guidelines exception identified in this staff report are appropriate and necessary. These proposed adjustments have also been reviewed and approved by the OCTA Technical Advisory Committee, and Board approval of these adjustments is recommended. If these recommendations are approved, staff will monitor their implementation through future semi-annual review cycles, which are reported biannually.

Summary

OCTA has recently concluded the March 2021 semi-annual review of all active M2 CTFP-funded project phases and is recommending Board approval of all proposed CTFP project adjustments, as well as a CTFP Guidelines exception.

Attachments

- A. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, March 2021
Semi-Annual Review Adjustment Request Statistics
- B. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, March 2021
Semi-Annual Review Adjustment Requests
- C. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, March 2021
Semi-Annual Review Adjustment Request Descriptions

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