



**June 10, 2021**

**To:** Transit Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** Joint Agreement with the County of Orange for the Operation, Maintenance, and Financial Management of the Orange County 800 Megahertz Countywide Coordinated Communications System

### **Overview**

On December 13, 2004, the Board of Directors approved a joint agreement with the County of Orange for the operation, maintenance, and financial management of the Orange County 800 Megahertz Countywide Coordinated Communications System. The Orange County Transportation Authority utilizes both the Countywide Coordinated Communications System and its own Intelligent Transit Management System to provide an integrated, robust, and redundant communication network with interoperable connectivity to the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Transit Police Services, and other County emergency management agencies. The Countywide Coordinated Communications System Governance Committee and County of Orange have developed a new agreement for continued membership.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3535 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the County of Orange, in the amount of \$90,315, to share in the cost of the operation, maintenance, and repair of the Orange County Transportation Authority equipment used on the system, equipment replacement, and financial management of the Countywide Coordinated Communications System for fiscal year 2021-22. Amendments for each subsequent fiscal year budget will be brought forth to the Board of Directors for consideration on an annual basis.

***Discussion***

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) entered into a joint agreement in 2005 with the County of Orange for the operation, maintenance, and financial management of the Orange County 800 Megahertz Countywide Coordinated Communications System (CCCS) connecting OCTA to 36 cities, eight county members and 18 mutual aid members on a common communication platform with shared operation and management costs across members. In June 2015, OCTA executed an amendment to the agreement for the upgrade of the CCCS required to bring the system to the Project 25 (P25) standards mandated for public safety and first responders. The agreement to assist with the upgrade includes 54 cities and agencies, including OCTA, sharing the cost of the upgrade to the system. The upgrade also required each of the participating cities and agencies to replace equipment at the time with P25-compliant equipment.

Having completed upgrades to CCCS to comply with the P25 standards, the CCCS Governance Committee made the decision to issue a new joint agreement replacing the agreement that originated in 2004.

Membership in the CCCS is important to OCTA as members of the Orange County Emergency Operations Plan, allowing communication with all other members when the Emergency Operations Center is activated, or any other time OCTA needs to coordinate with another city or agency. Another benefit of being a member of CCCS is that OCTA has access to several private communication channels for use by OCTA during emergencies and to support daily operating activities, including communication between Transit Police Services, Field Supervision, Central Communications and Maintenance groups. To continue as members of the CCCS, OCTA is required to continue to contribute to the operation, maintenance, and financial management of the system. While any participating member may withdraw from this agreement by serving written notice to the Governance Committee of their intent to withdraw, this agreement automatically renews each year.

***Summary***

Based on the information provided, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-1-3535 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the County of Orange, in the amount of \$90,315, to share in the cost of the operation, maintenance, and repair of the OCTA equipment used on the system,

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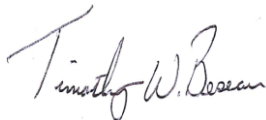
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equipment replacement, and financial management of the Countywide Coordinated Communications System for fiscal year 2021-22. Amendments for each subsequent fiscal year budget will be brought forth to the Board of Directors for consideration on an annual basis.

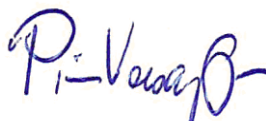
**Attachment**

- A. County of Orange 800 MHz Backbone Cost Sharing – Cost Allocations Based on Radio Counts

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