



June 17, 2021

To: Legislative and Communications Committee
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Update and Member Appointments

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to provide feedback on significant transportation items, help identify opportunities for community input, and serve as a conduit for public participation with the Orange County Transportation Authority. A summary of the committee's activities during the past year and the new member appointment status is provided with this report.

Recommendation

Receive and file the Citizens Advisory Committee status report.

Background

In its role as the County Transportation Commission, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is required by the Public Utilities Code (PUC) 130105 to appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input on transportation projects, programs, services, and outreach activities. The PUC states that the commission shall "appoint...a Citizens Advisory Committee, which membership shall reflect a broad spectrum of interests and all geographic areas of the county." The CAC is structured such that each OCTA Board of Directors (Board) member appoints two citizens to serve, creating a 34-member committee representing diverse interests and geographic areas of Orange County.

To carry out the CAC's mission, ongoing responsibilities include:

- Commenting on significant transportation items, suggesting possible solutions, and making recommendations when appropriate
- Identifying opportunities for community input

- Recommending mechanisms and methodologies for obtaining public feedback on specific transportation issues
- Serving as a liaison between the public and OCTA

The CAC has also formed two subcommittees to address specific areas of interest, a Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee, which meets quarterly to review items and issues related specifically to active transportation, and a Technology and Innovation Ad Hoc Committee, which meets as needed to review new ideas focused on technological advances and innovations that could help improve Orange County's transportation system.

Discussion

As an advisory body, members' comments and suggestions help to shape OCTA's services and communications to be responsive and user-friendly to the public. The wide range of viewpoints and interests represented by the membership also provides OCTA with an added sounding board for prospective programs and initiatives.

CAC input is communicated to the Board in a variety of ways. Members' feedback on projects and studies is incorporated as programs develop, which is often noted in project staff reports. As direct appointees of the Board, CAC members are also encouraged to communicate directly with their appointing Board Member.

During the past year, the CAC met four times, all virtually, to review and provide feedback on a variety of OCTA programs and topics. Key activities for this past year included:

- Receiving status reports on OCTA's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from OCTA Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Bergener
- Acting as OCTA's stakeholder working group for the 2022 Long-Range Transportation Plan
- Discussing OCTA's diversity outreach efforts
- Reviewing projects and programs currently underway
- Commenting on state and federal policies related to climate change and OCTA's new environmental sustainability webpage
- Discussing the progress of OC Streetcar and Interstate 405 Improvement Project
- Providing feedback on the South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study and Fullerton Park-and-Ride Joint Development Study

- Reviewing the projects and programs included in OCTA's fiscal year 2021 budget
- Receiving updates on sales tax forecasts

CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee

During the past year, the CAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee met two times, both via teleconference, to give feedback on ways to better incorporate active transportation as an alternative mode of travel, and to emphasize the need to practice and provide safe transportation methods for adults and youth such as Safe Routes to School, Safe Travels Education Program, and May Bike Month.

The subcommittee also reviewed and provided feedback on a variety of topics, including an interactive presentation from the California Department of Transportation on their District 12 Active Transportation Plan, construction-related bicycle trail closures, and how events such as Bike to Work Week were modified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member Appointments

CAC members serve staggered two-year terms from July through June, so each year every Board Member has one CAC member whose term expires on June 30. Committee members can serve unlimited terms. In February, each committee member with an expiring term was contacted to see if they were interested in continuing to serve. Announcements were made seeking potential applicants on OCTA's blog and social media accounts. In addition, information was sent to the media, city contacts, and local organizations to publish and include in their newsletters.

The opportunity to reappoint interested members for an additional term, along with resignations, was presented to each Board Member and their staff starting in February. The recruitment is now complete, and Board Members have either reappointed existing members or appointed new members to begin service on July 1, 2021, or have appointments pending (Attachment A).

To show OCTA's appreciation to members who will be leaving the committee, resolutions of appreciation have been prepared to thank them for their contribution.

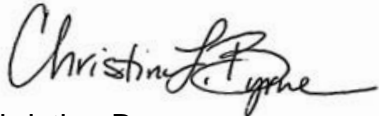
Summary

The CAC plays a vital role in OCTA's efforts to incorporate public feedback into the agency's transportation decision-making process. CAC members have contributed substantially to the work of OCTA in the past year. With the recruitment process for fiscal year 2021-22 now complete, OCTA Board Members have either reappointed existing CAC members or appointed new members. Members who are not continuing on the committee will receive resolutions of appreciation to thank them for their time and efforts.

Attachment

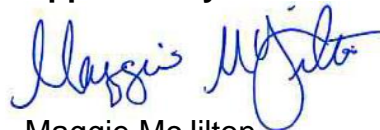
- A. Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee Roster Fiscal Year 2021-22

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