



***June 17, 2021***

**To:** Legislative and Communications Committee

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

**Subject:** Special Needs Advisory Committee Annual Update and Member Appointments

### ***Overview***

The Special Needs Advisory Committee was formed to advise the Orange County Transportation Authority on the transportation needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The member appointment status and a summary of the committee's activities during the past year is provided with this report.

### ***Recommendation***

Receive and file the Special Needs Advisory Committee status report.

### ***Background***

On January 13, 1992, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board), concurrent with approving the OCTA 1992 Complementary Paratransit Plan as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, voted to establish a standing citizens' committee, the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC), to advise OCTA on the transportation needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

### ***Discussion***

The SNAC's mission is to advise OCTA on the promotion of integrated public transit services and to improve communication between OCTA and seniors as well as persons with disabilities. SNAC members also provide support for OC ACCESS service eligibility appeals. The SNAC is comprised of 34 members appointed by the OCTA Board. Members serve staggered three-year terms and meet quarterly.

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.

During the past year, the SNAC 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 COVID-19 pandemic with OCTA Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Bergener
- Transit service and OC Bus service changes
- COVID-19 pandemic budget impacts
- OC Flex and Same Day Taxi service changes
- OCTA's Diversity Outreach and Inclusion efforts
- Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled Grant Program
- OC Streetcar construction progress
- OC ACCESS eligibility and operations
- OCTA's Senior Mobility Program and policies

In addition, a current member of the SNAC contacted staff with comments regarding the use of the term "Special Needs" within the SNAC committee title and suggested a change to reflect the most current and inclusive verbiage. A list of names used by other California transit agencies for similar committees was compiled and reviewed to develop a list of viable options for OCTA. The committee discussed a potential name change at their April 27, 2021 meeting and will be considering a name change at their July 27, 2021 meeting. Possible names for selection include:

- Accessible Transit Advisory Committee (ATAC)
- Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA)

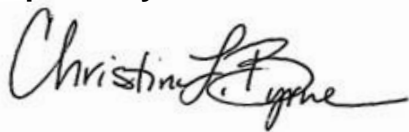
***Summary***

The SNAC continues to serve in an advisory and advocacy role on transit issues of importance for seniors and persons with disabilities throughout the year. SNAC members have contributed substantially to the work of OCTA in the past year. With the recruitment process for FY 2021-22 now complete, OCTA Board Members have either reappointed existing SNAC 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***

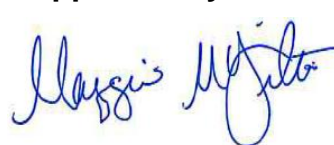
- A. Orange County Transportation Authority Special Needs Advisory Committee Roster Fiscal Year 2021-22

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