



July 1, 2021

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Orange County Transportation Authority State and Federal Grant Programs – Update and Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority provides grants to local agencies through various state and federal funding programs. Status reports on these programs, as well as project changes, are presented for review and approval. An update on the Solutions for Congestion Corridors Program 2018 program of projects is also provided.

Recommendations

- A. Approve schedule delay requests from the cities of Irvine, La Habra, Santa Ana, and the County of Orange.
- B. Approve amendment requests from the City of Brea contingent upon partial funding award through Cycle 5 of the Active Transportation Program or any subsequent program augmentations.
- C. Authorize staff to make all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and execute any required agreements or amendments to facilitate the recommendations above.

Background

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) issues periodic state and federally funded calls for projects (call). Examples of prior calls include the Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program (BCIP), State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) formula grant call, and Arterial Pavement Management (APM) Program. Additionally, OCTA may nominate individual local agency-led projects for other state funding programs, such as the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP). A combination of state and federal funds may be used as part of these programs.

Funding sources for the prior calls include federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds, federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds, Proposition 1B SLPP funds, and Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee funds. To fulfill OCTA, state, and federal requirements, project-specific amendments are requested by local agencies and are presented for Board of Directors’ (Board) review and approval.

Discussion

Since 2012, the OCTA Board has programmed \$98.7 million in state and federal funds to Orange County local agencies through the BCIP, SLPP, and APM calls, as well as local agency-led SCCP projects for a total of 179 phases of work supporting 154 projects. A summary of the project phases is provided in the table below, and additional detail on the status of the active projects is provided in Attachment A.

Project Phase Status	Environmental/Engineering	Right-of-Way (ROW)	Construction	Total
Planned	3	4	16	23
Started	10	1	5	16
Completed	13	-	115	128
Cancelled	1	-	11	12
Total	27	5	147	179

Note:
 BCIP projects may have more than one phase of work.
 Planned – Indicates that the funds for this phase have not been obligated.
 Started – Indicates that the funds for this phase have been obligated.
 Completed – Indicates that the work related to this phase is complete.

BCIP Schedule Delay Requests and Program Amendments

For this review period, Board approval is requested for schedule delay requests or program amendments to five projects.

The City of Irvine is requesting a delay to the construction phase of the Jeffrey Open Space Trail and Interstate 5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge to complete the design and ROW phase, which are both currently underway. The project area includes a portion of the Interstate 5, and the City of Irvine requires additional time to coordinate with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to ensure the design and ROW requirements will be met.

The City of La Habra is requesting a delay to the ROW phase of the Union Pacific Rail Line Bikeway to complete ongoing negotiations with the current property owner. The ROW certification for the project cannot be approved until the property acquisition is complete. The additional time will allow the City of La Habra to

continue ROW negotiations for property acquisition with Union Pacific Railroad prior to starting construction.

The City of Santa Ana is requesting a delay to the construction phase of the Warner Avenue Protected Bike Lanes to complete design. The procurement for a design consultant was delayed due to coronavirus impacts. The additional time will allow the City of Santa Ana to complete the design prior to starting construction.

The County of Orange is requesting a delay to the construction phase of the Santa Ana Gardens Channel Bikeway Extension to complete ROW activities. The project has recently completed the environmental assessment and design and is currently in the ROW phase. The additional time will allow the County of Orange to resolve outstanding utility relocation requirements prior to starting construction.

The City of Brea requested approximately \$5 million for the ROW phase of the OC Loop Brea Gap Closure through the Active Transportation Program (ATP) – Cycle 5. Due to limited ATP funding availability, only \$1.8 million is available to partially fund the request. ATP guidelines allow partial funding if additional funding is identified to fully fund the project phase. For this reason, staff is proposing to transfer CMAQ funds (previously awarded through the BCIP) from the construction phase to the ROW phase to meet the ATP requirement. This revision would increase the ROW phase BCIP award by \$3.2 million and decrease the construction phase BCIP award by \$3.2 million.

This request would leave the construction phase for the project underfunded and the project would no longer be eligible to receive additional BCIP funds for the construction phase. The City of Brea would be responsible for securing the remaining funding needed for the construction phase. However, the project may receive additional grants through ATP augmentation funds included in the draft state budget that could fully fund the City of Brea's original requested amount, in which case the requested changes included in this report would not be necessary. Due to uncertainty around the potential ATP augmentation funds, staff is recommending contingent programming amendments at this time, and will return to the Board with a future status report on construction phase funding.

Details on the above requests are provided in Attachment B.

SCCP 2018 Program of Projects Update

In October 2019, the Board authorized staff to accept a \$19.9 million grant award for the 2018 SCCP and authorized staff to negotiate and amend the program of projects to facilitate the delivery of the award.

The program of projects included:

- Traffic signal synchronization on MacArthur Boulevard/Talbert Avenue, Warner Avenue, and Edinger Avenue (\$12 million),
- Purchase five heavy-duty zero-emission battery-electric buses for Bravo! rapid bus service (\$4.3 million), and
- Five active transportation projects including four in the City of Tustin and one in the City of Santa Ana (\$3.6 million).

In December 2019, the City of Tustin notified OCTA that the four active transportation projects were cancelled due to lack of community support. Additionally, the City of Santa Ana's active transportation project had substantial cost increases and is no longer feasible without additional funding. To preserve the full grant award and ensure Orange County projects continue to receive the SCCP funds, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) requested OCTA propose replacement projects by June 2020. Staff met with the CTC, Caltrans, and the City of Santa Ana to develop a proposal for replacement projects that met the program requirements and could be delivered within the required timeframe. The replacement projects were approved by the CTC at the June 2020 meeting and were amended to identify implementing agencies at the May 2021 CTC meeting.

The revised program of projects replaced the five previously awarded active transportation projects with the following:

- Santa Clara Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements in the City of Santa Ana (approximately \$3.3 million),
- Routes 53/553 (Bravo! Main Street) – Bus Stop Improvements Project – Signage and Real Time Displays (approximately \$0.2 million), and
- Routes 53/553 (Bravo! Main Street) – Bus Stop Improvements Project – Shelters (approximately \$0.1 million).

Including these projects to replace the five active transportation projects in the initial proposal and the remaining original projects noted above, the total grant award remains the same at \$19.9 million.

The Capital Funding Program Report, which summarizes the current programming of OCTA-issued state and federally funded calls based on actions that may be recommended in this report, as well as prior Board actions, is included as Attachment C.

Summary

Status reports from the BCIP, SLPP, APM Program, and local agency-led SCCP projects are provided for review. Staff recommends Board approval of program amendment requests for local agency projects.

Attachments

- A. State and Federal Grant Programs Project Status, as of July 1, 2021
- B. State and Federal Grant Programs, Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program Requests
- C. Capital Funding Program Report

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