



**July 8, 2021**

**To:** Transit Committee

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

**Subject:** Measure M2 Community-Based Transit Circulators Program  
Project V Ridership Report

### **Overview**

Measure M2 includes a program to fund Community-Based Transit Circulators known as Project V. The goal of the program is to provide local transit services designed to complement regional transit services. Funding is awarded to local jurisdictions through a competitive call for projects and local jurisdictions then implement the awarded services. Ridership reports for Project V-funded services are presented to the Board of Directors twice annually. This item provides the ridership report for the second and third quarters of fiscal year 2020-21, from October 2020 through March 2021. It also provides a brief update on Project V program-related activities.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Receive and file Project V Ridership Report as an information item.
- B. Release contingency for the award of \$171,810 in M2 Project V capital funds for Dana Point's replacement vehicle.

### **Background**

The Measure M2 (M2) Community-Based Transit Circulators Program, known as Project V, is a competitive grant program, which provides funding to develop and implement local transit services. Currently, funded service types include community-based circulators, shuttles, trolleys, and demand-responsive services intended to complement regional transit, while also better meeting specific local needs.

Project V services are required to adhere to established minimum performance standards, which originally required achieving six boardings per revenue vehicle hour (B/RVH) by the end of the first year of service, maintaining six B/RVH and going up to ten B/RVH by the end of the second year of service, and then maintaining ten B/RVH for the remainder of the grant term; however, these

standards were modified by the Board of Directors (Board) in January 2021 to address the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Specifically, the Board approved a change requiring each service to meet a maximum cost per boarding.

This report spans the second and third quarters of fiscal year (FY) 2020-21, with the original performance requirement in place through the end of January 2021, and the updated performance requirement in place from the end of January to March 31, 2021 and provides information on both of these measures for all active services. This report also provides a brief update on Project V Program-related activities.

### ***Discussion***

#### **Ridership Report**

For this reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated social distancing requirements significantly impacted both service delivery and ridership. Only three services were operational during the reporting period. These services included:

- Anaheim's Canyon Circulator – Metrolink connector service,
- Orange County's – OC RanchRide Local Circulator and Special Event Service, and
- San Clemente's – SCRides demand-responsive service.

These services met the required minimum performance standards for the reporting period, and productivity information for these services is provided in Attachment A. The other 20 Project V services listed in Attachment A were either suspended or not initiated by local jurisdictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated impacts.

#### **Current Activities**

As restrictions imposed by the pandemic have begun to subside, services are slowly being reinstated. During the fourth quarter, Project V services resumed in the cities of Dana Point, Laguna Beach (Summer Breeze), Newport Beach, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano.

A second wave of services is anticipated to resume during the summer and fall. Currently, these services are expected to include Irvine's iShuttle services, Mission Viejo's Community Circulator service, Laguna Beach's Off-Season Weekend Circulator service, and La Habra's Special Event service.

A third group of recently awarded projects, including Laguna Niguel's Summer Trolley and Huntington Beach's Southeast Rideshare Pilot Program are anticipated to begin service in 2022.

Ridership from these and all other active services will continue to be monitored by staff quarterly and reported on in regular semi-annual updates to the Board.

#### **Project V Program-Related Activities Update**

A summary of several Project V program updates related to recent Board actions is provided below.

- The City of Dana Point's (City) 2020 Project V capital grant award - As part of the 2020 Project V call for projects (call), the City was requested to compare the purchase of a replacement trolley vehicle to leasing a used Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) vehicle. The City provided this documentation, and OCTA concurs with the City's assessment that purchasing a replacement vehicle is consistent with the City's long-term service objectives, and therefore, supports the use of previously programmed Project V funds to purchase a replacement vehicle. Upon Board approval of Recommendation B, staff will develop a cooperative agreement to support both the implementation of the 2020 Project V grant award and the purchase of the replacement vehicle.
- Project V Program Adjustments – OCTA has been working with local jurisdictions to amend existing Project V cooperative agreements in order to implement recent Board-approved adjustments to the Project V program. These adjustments include.
  - Revising the program's minimum performance standards from a B/RVH basis to a cost per boarding basis,
  - Allowing for escalation of annual funding caps and the Project V subsidy amount to address inflationary costs,
  - Initiating customer satisfaction and on-time performance reporting requirements, as applicable,
  - Modifying grant expiration dates to reflect Board-approved COVID-19-related scheduling adjustments, and
  - Implementing various other grant adjustments related to COVID-19 that were approved by the Board through previous semi-annual review cycles.
- OCTA is also continuing to monitor the latest developments with respect to best practices for transit passenger safety and vehicle capacity. As applicable new information becomes available, staff will continue

sharing this information with local jurisdictions to assist them with service planning and re-initiation efforts.

#### **Next Steps**

In the coming months, OCTA will continue monitoring and working on the activities described in this report, as well as working to support local jurisdictions as they resume, and initiate services and begin adhering to the program's new minimum performance standards. Staff will also continue providing twice-yearly Project V updates to the Board, with the next update scheduled to occur in early 2022.

#### **Summary**

A ridership and status report on Project V services is provided for the Board's information. Staff will continue working with local jurisdictions to monitor COVID-19-related issues, support them as they resume services, and implement recently approved Project V programmatic changes. A status update on these efforts will continue to be provided to the Board semi-annually, with the next scheduled update occurring in early 2022.

#### **Attachment**

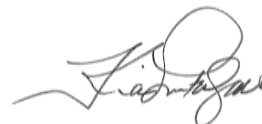
- A. Project V Services – Ridership Report

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