



**September 2, 2021**

**To:** Regional Planning and Highways Committee

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

**Subject:** Draft 2021 Orange County Congestion Management Program  
Report Release for Public Review

### **Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Orange County Congestion Management Program every two years. In accordance with state requirements, a draft 2021 Orange County Congestion Management Program Report has been prepared for public review and will be circulated to local agencies upon direction by the Board of Directors.

### **Recommendation**

Direct staff to release the draft 2021 Orange County Congestion Management Program Report for public review and set November 22, 2021, as a public hearing date for adoption of the final 2021 Orange County Congestion Management Program Report.

### **Background**

In June 1990, the passage of Proposition 111 required urbanized areas to designate a Congestion Management Agency (CMA) and adopt a Congestion Management Program (CMP) to continue receiving state gasoline tax funds. As Orange County's designated CMA, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is responsible for developing, monitoring, and biennially updating Orange County's CMP Report. Specific CMP elements are also linked to the Measure M2 (M2) eligibility process that qualifies cities and the County of Orange for M2 funds. The overall purpose of the CMP is to provide a mechanism for coordinating land use and transportation decisions, and to assess how traffic congestion is being managed by monitoring the transportation system.

The draft 2021 Orange County CMP Report (Attachment A) is a composite of data submittals, such as traffic counts and capital improvement programs. It was developed through cooperative efforts between OCTA, local jurisdictions, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) over the past year, in accordance with state legislation.

### ***Discussion***

It is important to emphasize that the CMP Report is updated every two years to reflect current conditions. Therefore, the data included in the draft 2021 Orange County CMP Report reflects travel conditions during the coronavirus pandemic, as noted throughout the document. As a result, the draft 2021 Orange County CMP Report should be viewed more as a record specific to the pandemic travel conditions in Orange County, rather than part of the typical cycle of CMP reports prepared in the past. While the data is unique to the pandemic period, the data collection and reporting methods have stayed consistent as outlined below.

To assist Orange County cities, OCTA funds and administers the collection of traffic count data at over 100 intersections within the Orange County CMP highway system. The count data was used to calculate intersection capacity utilization (ICU) ratings, which represent the percent of capacity used at each intersection when demand is highest, during morning and evening peak hours. Based on ICU ratings, level of service (LOS) grades are assigned to each intersection. Local jurisdictions have reviewed and approved all intersection performance data.

LOS Grade	ICU Rating
A	< .60
B	.60 - .70
C	.70 - .80
D	.80 - .90
E	.90 - 1.00
F	> 1.00

The general performance standard that must be maintained at CMP intersections is a LOS grade of E or better. In most cases, if an intersection receives a LOS grade of F, it is considered deficient and operating over capacity. As such, a deficiency plan must be developed by the responsible jurisdiction controlling the intersection.

A deficiency plan identifies the cause of congestion, the improvements needed to solve the problem, and the cost and timing of the proposed improvements. The 2021 Orange County CMP Report found that no deficiency plans are required from any Orange County local agencies.

In the baseline year data (1991 in most cases), the Orange County CMP Report identified 14 intersections that operated at LOS F in the morning and evening peak hours. Since that time, congestion conditions have improved at these intersections to a LOS grade of C or better. Compared to the baseline year, the 2021 average morning ICU rating showed a 35.82 percent improvement, and the 2021 average evening ICU rating showed a 27.77 percent improvement. While past CMP reports have demonstrated that OC Go and other locally funded projects have provided significant improvements over the baseline year, the high levels of improvement reported here reflect the lower volumes experienced during the pandemic period.

Local jurisdictions also submitted data pertaining to capital improvement programs, coordination of land use and transportation, and other legislatively required CMP elements. Based on the submittals and performance measure data, OCTA's preliminary finding is that all jurisdictions comply with the CMP requirements. The Orange County CMP Report must also include data on freeway LOS. This information was prepared by Caltrans and is included as Appendix A of the report.

#### **Next Steps**

Upon direction from the OCTA Board of Directors (Board), the draft 2021 Orange County CMP Report will be released for a three-week public review period. The draft 2021 Orange County CMP Report will be circulated to local agencies for review, hardcopies will be available in-house for review by the public, and an electronic version will be available on the OCTA website. Comments received will be reviewed and incorporated as appropriate into the final 2021 Orange County CMP Report.

The final 2021 Orange County CMP Report will be brought to the Board for adoption at a noticed public hearing on November 22, 2021, as required by state law. Upon adoption by the Board, the final 2021 Orange County CMP Report will be submitted to the Southern California Association of Governments to ensure consistency with regional transportation plans.

#### **Summary**

A draft 2021 CMP Report has been prepared in accordance with state legislation and developed through cooperative efforts involving local jurisdictions and public agencies. With Board direction, staff will circulate the draft 2021 Orange County CMP Report for a three-week public review period and return with a final report for adoption at a public hearing.

***Attachment***

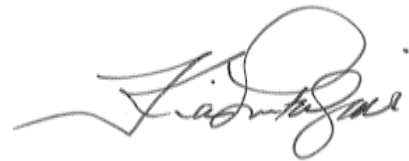
- A. 2021 Orange County Congestion Management Program,  
Orange County Transportation Authority, August 2021

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