



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

August 18, 2020

Mr. Mitchell Weiss
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 95814

Steven R. Jones

Mayor

John R. O'Neill

Mayor Pro Tem - District 2

George S. Brietigam

Council Member - District 1

Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen

Council Member - District 3

Patrick Phat Bui

Council Member - District 4

Stephanie Klopfenstein

Council Member - District 5

Kim Bernice Nguyen

Council Member - District 6

Re: Garden Grove – Santa Ana Rails-to-Trails Gap Closure Project Active
Transportation Program Cycle 5 – Large Infrastructure Application

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I am writing to support the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA's) "Garden Grove – Santa Ana Rails-to-Trails Gap Closure Project" grant application for Active Transportation Program (ATP) funding. These funds will be used for an active transportation multi-use path that links directly to the countywide 66-mile OC Loop Bikeway connecting walking and bicycling paths. OCTA is applying for the Project Approval & Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase. Once approved through the environmental process, the cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana will advance the project through final design and construction.

When constructed, the proposed four-mile Class I multi-use path will fill an active transportation gap in the cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana and will entail a partnership with the two cities. The new facility will allow surrounding members of disadvantaged communities to travel safely in a separated path not used by cars and trucks. The project site is located on the OCTA-owned former Pacific Electric railroad right-of-way for 3.1 miles, and 0.85 miles along the Wintersburg Channel.

A funding award would recognize OCTA's commitment to implementing active transportation along this congested corridor surrounded by disadvantaged communities, which will continue to be critical in facilitating social equity, the health and well-being of these community members, the economic vitality of the area, and the ability to access key destinations such as health care centers, open space, and transit stops.

OCTA, along with the cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana, has been working on planning efforts with regional stakeholders to provide this benefit to our region.

Aligned with the goals of the ATP, the project will help increase the proportion of bicycling and walking trips, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance public health.

In short, the Garden Grove – Santa Ana Rails-to-Trails Gap Closure Project is exactly the type of transportation investment that should be rewarded with ATP funds. We appreciate your consideration of this critical mobility improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Jones", with a stylized, cursive script.

Steven R. Jones
Mayor