



**Committee Members Present**

Gene Hernandez, Vice Chairman  
Barbara Delgleize  
Mark A. Murphy  
Harry S. Sidhu  
Donald P. Wagner

**Staff Present**

Jennifer L. Bergener, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Gina Ramirez, Clerk of the Board Specialist, Senior  
Sahara Meisenheimer, Clerk of the Board Specialist

**Committee Members Absent**

Lisa A. Bartlett, Chairwoman  
Michael Hennessey

**Via Teleconference**

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
James Donich, General Counsel

**Call to Order**

The September 16, 2021, regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications (L&C) Committee was called to order by Committee Vice Chairman Hernandez at 9:00 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Gina Ramirez, Clerk of the Board Specialist, Senior, conducted an attendance Roll Call and announced a quorum of the L&C Committee.

**1. Public Comments**

There were no public comments received.

**Special Calendar**

**2. Conference Call with State Legislative Advocate Moira Topp**

Moira Topp, State Legislative Advocate, provided a verbal report on this item.

Director Delgleize inquired about the fires and long-term planning on the environment.

Ms. Topp responded that the bills introduced had more significant community planning and local oversight. The governor and legislature focused on funding on various levels, and there may be a mid-year allocation of funds for regional planning and community oversight

Committee Vice Chairman Hernandez inquired on forest management funding.

Ms. Topp responded that most of the monies went to forest management and the California Department Of Forestry And Fire Protection.



## **Consent Calendar (Items 3 through 5)**

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Wagner, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to approve the minutes of the Legislative and Communications Committee meeting of July 15, 2021.

### **4. Agreement for Public Outreach Consultant Services during the Environmental Phase of the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from San Diego County Line to Avenida Pico**

A motion was made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Wagner, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to:

- A. Approve the selection of McCormick-Busse, Inc., doing business as MBI Media, as the firm to provide public outreach consulting services during the Environmental Phase of the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from the San Diego County Line to Avenida Pico.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-1-3353 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and McCormick-Busse, Inc., doing business as MBI Media, in the amount of \$298,450, for a three-year initial term, effective through October 31, 2024, with an option term of up to 24 months, to provide public outreach consulting services during the Environmental Phase of the Interstate 5 Improvement Project from the San Diego County Line to Avenida Pico.

### **5. 2021 Title VI Plan Triennial Report**

A motion was made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Wagner, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to:

- A. Review, approve, and direct staff to submit the 2021 Title VI Plan Triennial Report to the Federal Transit Administration's Regional Office of Civil Rights on or before October 1, 2021.
- B. Review and approve the results of the Service Standards and Policies monitoring in Section 4 of the 2021 Title VI Plan Triennial Report.



## **Regular Calendar**

### **6. State Legislative Status Report**

Lance Larson, Executive Director of Government Relations, noted that this item did not contain the usual legislative matrix. He stated that staff is finalizing the comprehensive end-of-year report and will present detailed information of the bills and legislation that the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has been following throughout this legislative session at the next L&C Committee meeting. He also stated that staff would provide the draft Legislative platform for 2022.

Kristin Jacinto, Program Manager, provided a verbal report on this item.

Following the discussion, no action was taken on this receive and file information item.

### **7. Federal Legislative Status Report**

Lance Larson, Executive Director of Government Relations, provided opening comments and introduced Dustin J. Sifford, Senior Government Relations Representative, who provided a verbal report on this item.

Following the discussion, no action was taken on this receive and file information item.

## **Discussion Items**

### **8. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), reported on the following:

#### **Emergency Rail Line Closure -**

- Mr. Johnson, CEO, referenced his email sent on September 15<sup>th</sup> regarding Metrolink's emergency rail line closure. As a reminder, starting September 16<sup>th</sup>, all service is suspended between the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo and Oceanside stations through October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- This closure will allow crews to perform emergency maintenance work along the railroad tracks just south of the San Clemente Pier Station to ensure the ongoing safe operation of the rail line.



**Interstate 405 (I-405) Virtual Neighborhood Meeting**

- Tonight, OCTA is hosting a virtual neighborhood meeting to update the community on the upcoming closure of the Springdale Street bridge as part of the Interstate 405 Improvement Project.
- The meeting will take place via Zoom from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. and will be recorded and archived on our website for future viewing.
- The Springdale Street bridge is anticipated to be closed in late September, and demolition activities are expected to begin in early October.

**Youth Ride Free Pass**

- OCTA launched the Youth Ride Free pilot program earlier this month, allowing all youth ages 18 and under to ride the OC Bus system for free.
- To date, OCTA has provided more than 210,000 passes for distribution to approximately 570 schools throughout the county, and staff has recorded around 14,400 boardings from riders using this pass.

Committee Vice Chairman Hernandez inquired about notifying commuters who need to get from San Clemente to the North.

Mr. Johnson, CEO, responded that a host of communications plans from the Metrolink website, Twitter, media press releases, and communications at the stations. Metrolink riders are very focused on information around train delays and schedule impacts via social media. He also noted that due to the pandemic, ridership is still at a low level.

Mr. Johnson, CEO, stated OCTA would not provide any bus bridges, given the complexity and the length of the closure. He said most commuter passengers have access to a personal vehicle. In addition, communication notices state there is plenty of parking available at the Laguna Niguel and Mission Viejo stations.

**9. Committee Members' Reports**

There were no Committee Member Reports.

**10. Closed Session**

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.



**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 21, 2021**, at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, Conference Room 07, 550 South Main Street, Orange, California.

ATTEST

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Gene Hernandez  
Committee Vice Chairman

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Gina Ramirez  
Clerk of the Board Specialist, Senior