



June 15, 2023

To: Legislative and Communications Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Update and Member Appointments

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to provide feedback on significant transportation issues, help identify opportunities for community input, and serve as a public liaison for the Orange County Transportation Authority. A summary of the committee's activities during the past year and the new member appointment status is provided with this report.

Recommendation

Receive and file the Citizens Advisory Committee status report.

Discussion

In its role as the county transportation commission, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is required by the Public Utilities Code (PUC) 130105 to appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input on transportation projects, programs, services, and outreach activities. The PUC states that the commission shall "appoint a citizens advisory committee, which membership shall reflect a broad spectrum of interests and all geographic areas of the county." The CAC is structured such that each OCTA Board of Directors (Board) member appoints two citizens to serve, creating a 34-member committee representing diverse interests and geographic areas of Orange County.

To carry out the CAC's mission, ongoing responsibilities include:

- Providing input on significant transportation issues, suggesting possible solutions, and making recommendations when appropriate
- Identifying opportunities for community input

- Recommending mechanisms and methodologies for obtaining public feedback on specific transportation issues
- Serving as a liaison between the public and OCTA

In 2011, the CAC formed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee, which meets quarterly to review items and issues related specifically to active transportation.

As an advisory committee, members' feedback or input and suggestions help shape OCTA's services and communications to be responsive and user-friendly to the public. The wide range of viewpoints and interests represented by the membership also provides OCTA with an added sounding board for prospective programs and initiatives.

CAC input is communicated to the Board in a variety of ways. Members' feedback on projects and initiatives is incorporated as programs develop, which is often noted in project staff reports. As direct appointees of the Board, CAC members are also encouraged to communicate directly with their appointing Board Member.

During the past fiscal year, the CAC met four times to review and provide feedback on a variety of OCTA programs and topics. Key activities for this past year included:

- Acting as OCTA's stakeholder working group for the 2022 Long Range Transportation Plan
- Providing feedback on Making Better Connections Study
- Discussing OCTA's diversity outreach and inclusion efforts
- Receiving presentations on the Coastal Rail Planning framework and track stabilization updates
- Reviewing the progress of OC Streetcar and Interstate-405 (I-405) Improvement Project
- Receiving an overview of the 2023 Complete Streets Call for Projects
- Reviewing the projects and programs included in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget
- Receiving updates on sales tax forecasts

Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee

During the past year, the CAC Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee met two times to provide feedback on ways to better incorporate active transportation as an alternative mode of travel, and to emphasize the need to practice and provide safe transportation methods for adults and youth. The

subcommittee received updates and provided input on the Bike Gap Closure Study, Interstate-5 (I-5) Improvement Project, Interstate-605/Katella Avenue Interchange, and the I-5 Stage 2 Bridge Extension.

Member Appointments

CAC members serve staggered two-year terms from July through June, so each year every Board Member has one CAC member whose term expires on June 30. Committee members can serve unlimited terms. In February, each committee member with an expiring term was contacted to see if they were interested in continuing to serve.

Beginning in March 2023, Board Members and their staff were contacted with current recruitment information, including existing CAC members interested in reappointment and member resignations. The recruitment is now complete. Board Members have reappointed existing members and/or appointed new members to begin service on July 1, 2023, or have appointments pending (Attachment A).

To show OCTA's appreciation to members who are leaving the committee, resolutions of appreciation have been prepared to thank them for their contribution.

Summary

The CAC plays a vital role in OCTA's efforts to incorporate public feedback into the agency's transportation decision-making process. CAC members have contributed substantially to the work of OCTA in the past year. With the recruitment process for fiscal year 2023-24 now complete, OCTA Board Members have either reappointed existing CAC members or appointed new members. Members who are not continuing on the committee will receive resolutions of appreciation to thank them for their efforts.

Attachment

- A. Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee
Roster Fiscal Year 2023-24

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