



April 7, 2025

To: Regional Transportation Planning Committee
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – 2025 Call for Projects Programming Recommendations

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Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority issued the 2025 Measure M2 Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Regional Capacity Program and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program call for projects in August 2024. Project applications were due in October 2024. A list of projects recommended for funding is presented for Board of Directors' review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the award of \$25.72 million in 2025 Regional Capacity Program (Project O) funds to nine local jurisdiction projects.
- B. Approve the award of \$11.99 million in 2025 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P) funds to six local jurisdiction projects.

Background

The Regional Capacity Program (RCP), Project O, is the Measure M2 (M2) competitive funding program through which the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) supports street and road improvement projects. The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (RTSSP), Project P, is the M2 competitive program that provides funding for regional signal synchronization projects.

Both programs are included in the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP), which includes all the competitive M2 programs that provide grants to local agencies for transit, streets and roads, and environmental cleanup. These programs are subject to an annual call for projects (call) which is guided by the Board of Directors (Board)-approved CTFP guidelines. The CTFP guidelines are updated before each call and include scoring criteria that are developed in collaboration with the OCTA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which is comprised of representatives from the 35 local jurisdictions.

The CTFP guidelines for the 2025 call were approved by the Board on August 12, 2024. At that meeting, the Board also authorized the issuance of the current call. On average, OCTA awards approximately \$40 million annually through these funding programs. The deadline to submit projects for consideration for the 2025 CTFP call was October 24, 2024.

Discussion

RCP

OCTA received ten applications for RCP funding, requesting a total of \$33.21 million in funding as further detailed in Attachment A. The applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency, adherence to the guidelines, and overall M2 program objectives aimed at completing a balanced regional network. Applications were evaluated and ranked based on the scoring criteria identified in the guidelines. During the review process, staff worked with local jurisdictions to address technical issues such as application scoring corrections, scope of work clarifications, and refinement of final project funding requests. One project from the County of Orange could not advance for funding consideration, as it did not meet the basic level of service criteria required.

Based upon these reviews and project consistency with the guidelines, staff recommends funding for nine projects, totaling \$25.72 million (inflationary adjustments would be added, as appropriate). The recommended amount differs from what was originally requested by each local jurisdiction due to OCTA's detailed review of costs as listed in the applications. The revised recommended grant amount reflects only the project scope components and costs that appear to be eligible per the guidelines. Attachment B provides more detail on the programming recommendations.

The recommended RCP funding will support projects in the cities of Anaheim, Irvine, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Santa Ana, and Yorba Linda, and the County of Orange. Of the nine recommended projects, six will provide arterial capacity improvement benefits and three will provide intersection capacity

enhancements. Implementation of these projects in aggregate is anticipated to produce notable congestion-reducing benefits in Orange County, while enhancing the arterial system overall.

It should also be noted that the applications submitted by the cities of Irvine and Newport Beach received additional points for providing further details on how the proposed bicycle facilities identified in their projects will help reduce congestion and improve street operations. As such, OCTA is interested in these projects, and they will be evaluated after they are delivered for potential benefits of complementary bicycle improvements to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways network.

RTSSP

OCTA received six applications for RTSSP funding, requesting a total of \$12.03 million in RTSSP funding. Staff worked with the local jurisdictions to address technical issues related to equipment cost refinements as well as project scope of work clarifications. Attachment A has more detail on the submitted projects.

Staff recommends the award of \$11.99 million to fund all six RTSSP projects. The revised recommended grant amount is a result of cost refinements and scope of work clarifications. The local jurisdictions have indicated that they anticipate implementing these projects in fiscal year 2025-26. Together, these projects will improve throughput on six arterial roadways in the cities of Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Brea, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, and Santa Ana. Additional details on the recommended signal synchronization projects and the recommended awards are provided in Attachment C.

The table below provides an overall summary of the funding recommendations:

2025 CTFP Call Summary (\$ in millions)			
	RCP	RTSSP	Total
Number of Applications Recommended for Approval	9	6	15
Amount Recommended for Approval (Escalated)	\$25.72	\$11.99	\$37.71

Staff recommends the award of \$37.71 million for 15 projects under the RCP and RTSSP. With the addition of these awards, the total amount of RCP and RTSSP M2 grants provided by OCTA to local agencies, since 2011, is more than \$604 million. These grants support the development of a safe, efficient, and modern roadway system. The RCP applications for the recommended projects

demonstrate a future funding need of approximately \$254 million to support right-of-way and construction phases, with \$24 million likely needed within the next three call cycles. A map displaying the 2025 RCP and RTSSP recommended project awards is provided in Attachment D.

The OCTA Technical Steering Committee and TAC reviewed and recommended the RCP and RTSSP awards for Board approval at their meetings in March 2025.

Next Steps

With Board approval of these recommendations, staff will initiate letter agreements between OCTA and the appropriate local jurisdictions. As these projects advance, staff will continue to monitor their status and project delivery through the semi-annual review process.

Summary

Programming recommendations to award \$37.71 million to 15 projects in M2 2025 RCP and RTSSP funds are presented for Board approval.

Attachments

- A. 2025 Measure M2 Call for Projects – Applications Received
- B. 2025 M2 Regional Capacity Program (Project O) Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations
- C. 2025 M2 Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (Project P) Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations
- D. 2025 Recommended Project O and P Awards Map

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