




February 5, 2024

To: Regional Transportation Planning Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Orange County Transportation Authority State and Federal Grant Programs – Update and Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority provides grants to local and non-profit agencies through various local, state, and federal transportation funding programs. Status reports on these programs, as well as recommended project changes, are presented for review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Approve one change request from the City of San Clemente for a Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program project, contingent on final approval by the Southern California Association of Governments.
- B. Approve one technical correction request from Access California Services for an Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled Grant Program project.
- C. Authorize staff to request that the Southern California Association of Governments make all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and execute any required agreements or amendments to facilitate the recommendations above.

Background

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) issues periodic local, state, and federally funded calls for projects (call). Prior calls include the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled (EMSD) Program, Pavement Management Relief Funding (PMRF) Program, Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program (BCIP), and Arterial Pavement Management (APM) Program. Each program has a primary focus or goal, as noted in the table below.

OCTA may also nominate individual local jurisdiction-led projects for funding programs, such as the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), in partnership with the local jurisdiction.

OCTA Program	Primary Program Goal	Program Fund Source
EMSD	Support services provided to seniors and individuals with disabilities	Local funds
PMRF	Support local jurisdictions for pavement management needs	Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Highway Infrastructure Program funds
BCIP	Support the development of Orange County's bicycle network	Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds or Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee funds
APM	Support local jurisdictions for pavement management needs	Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds

To ensure local, state, and federal requirements are being met, OCTA regularly performs reviews and requests updates on the status of active projects from the implementing jurisdictions and agencies.

Discussion

Since 2012, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) has approved the programming of approximately \$88 million in state and federal funds to Orange County local jurisdictions and non-profit agencies through the EMSD, PMRF, BCIP, APM calls, and other local jurisdiction-led state-funded projects for a total of 157 phases of work currently programmed for 130 projects.

A summary of all the awarded project phases is provided in the table below, and additional details on the status of active projects are provided in Attachment A.

Phase of Work/ Status	CAP	OPS	ENV/ENG	ROW	CON	Total
Planned	0	0	1	2	30	33
Started	5	7	6	1	16	35
Completed	-	-	18	1	70	89
Total	5	7	25	4	116	157
<i>Cancelled</i>	1	1	2	1	18	23

CAP – Capital

CON – Construction

ENV/ENG – Environmental/engineering

OPS – Operations

ROW – Right-of-way

Notes:

BCIP projects may have more than one phase of work.

Planned – Indicates that the funds for this phase have not been obligated or a contract has not yet been executed.

Started – Indicates that the funds for this phase have been obligated or a contract has been executed.

Completed – Indicates that the work related to this phase is complete.

PMRF Program Update

The PMRF Program was funded using federal CRRSAA Highway Infrastructure Program funds. On October 11, 2021, the OCTA Board awarded \$10.931 million to 35 agencies in Orange County through the PMRF Program. Funding was distributed on a formula based on population with a minimum of \$200,000 per local agency. Following the original award, several projects were cancelled by the local agencies, leaving 31 projects totaling \$9.921 million to be delivered.

On June 3, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 3746 “The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023” which, in addition to enacting the debt ceiling compromise, rescinded all unobligated CRRSAA funds immediately upon enactment. Despite multiple prior pleas to the local agencies to request approval of funding from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as soon as possible, only nine PMRF projects (totaling \$3.811 million) received approval for the CRRSAA funds by the time the details of the budget ceiling compromise came to light. The remaining 22 projects awarded \$6.11 million in CRRSAA funds could not advance as the funding has expired.

However, in December 2023, Caltrans notified local agencies that state funding was available for these projects, and they can now proceed. This action preserves over 93 percent of the original funding by using state funds. The City of Newport Beach and the City of San Clemente (San Clemente) declined to use the state funds and indicated they are advancing their projects using local funds. The list of all PMRF projects and their status following the federal rescission and the recent commitment of state funds is included in Attachment A.

Project Amendments

For this review period, Board approval is requested for a delay request by San Clemente. San Clemente has requested a delay for the South El Camino Real Lane Reconfiguration and Buffered Bike Lane Project because the project requires additional coordination with adjacent jurisdictions for permits, ROW certification, and additional design coordination. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) will have the final approval, consistent with SCAG’s project selection process for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality-funded projects.

Details are provided in Attachment B.

In addition, Board approval is requested for a technical correction for the Access California Services (AccessCal) EMSD-funded operating assistance project. AccessCal is requesting a match rate correction from 30 percent to 25 percent, consistent with the match required by the Board-approved EMSD guidelines. This request is due to AccessCal's misunderstanding of the required match rate for operating assistance projects. The correction would reduce the match from \$108,406 to \$83,333. OCTA's grant amount would remain the same at \$250,000. There is no change to the project scope. The correction will allow AccessCal to maximize the use of the grant reimbursement rate and provide the same transportation services to their clients as scoped in the application. AccessCal will be responsible for any cost increases to the project. Also, AccessCal's project would have been recommended for this grant funding if the original application had included the correct match rate of 25 percent when originally submitted. Additional detail is provided in Attachment B.

The Capital Funding Program Report, provided in Attachment C, summarizes the approved funding for streets and roads projects, including OCTA-issued state and federally funded calls.

Summary

Status reports from the PMRF, BCIP, EMSD, APM programs, and local agency led state program projects are provided for review. Staff is requesting Board approval for one delay request from San Clemente and a match adjustment for one EMSD project. Authorization to submit the changes through a Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment and the SCAG process for final approval as applicable is also requested.

Attachments

- A. State and Federal Grant Programs Project Status
- B. State and Federal Grants Program, Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program Requests
- C. Capital Funding Program Report

Prepared by:



Denise Sifford
Senior Transportation Funding Analyst
(714) 560-5489

Approved by:



Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning
(714) 560-5741