



November 13, 2025

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Acceptance of Grant Award from Department of Homeland Security Transit Security Grant Program

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority has been awarded \$431,327 in Federal Emergency Management Agency funding by the Department of Homeland Security through the Transit Security Grant Program. Recommendations for acceptance of these funds are presented for Board of Directors' review and approval.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to accept the award of \$431,327 in Federal Emergency Management Agency funding from the Department of Homeland Security through the Transit Security Grant Program and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the Department of Homeland Security.
- B. Authorize staff to make all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program, as well as execute any necessary agreements to facilitate the recommendation above.

Background

On August 1, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) made available the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), which provided \$83,700,000 to eligible public transit systems to promote sustainable, risk-based efforts to protect critical transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and other emergencies.

The TSGP is one of four grant programs that constitute DHS' focus on transportation infrastructure security activities. It is part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS to secure the nation's critical infrastructure.

On August 15, 2025, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) submitted an application requesting support for the Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR)/Anti-Terror Anti-Crime (ATAC) and the Transportation Center Surveillance Protection projects. On September 29, 2025, DHS formally announced that OCTA was awarded \$431,327 in TSGP funding.

Discussion

The DHS award to OCTA of \$431,327 in TSGP funding represents partial costs of implementing the VIPR/ATAC and Transportation Center Surveillance Protection projects. Both projects can be scaled to the awarded TSGP funding amount. Additional project details can be found in Attachment A.

The VIPR/ATAC project has been an ongoing project that is scaled annually depending on various grant programs. It is designed to present a “show of force” to the public to deter terrorist acts and potentially interrupt terrorist pre-planning activities targeted towards soft-targets and crowded places. Periodic visible operations demonstrates that the transit system is patrolled on a regular basis, deters terrorist threats, and lowers the likelihood of a successful terrorist attack.

The Transportation Center Surveillance Protection project allows OCTA and its law enforcement partners to monitor the OCTA-owned Fullerton Park-and-Ride property remotely, to improve response times, and provide video evidence of any suspicious activity detected. The project will add video surveillance equipment with access control card readers at the Fullerton Park-and-Ride property. While all the transportation centers and park-and-rides have their own unique challenges, the Fullerton Park-and-Ride property has been facing issues such as the dumping of abandoned vehicles, vehicle trailers, and other miscellaneous trash items, graffiti, and other property damage. With the large size of the property, the project would help OCTA apply mitigation strategies.

Staff is requesting the Board of Directors (Board) to authorize acceptance of this grant and to further authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and enter into a contract with the DHS, allowing OCTA to seek reimbursement for the costs of the project.

Summary

The DHS awarded OCTA \$431,327 in TSGP funding, representing partial costs of implementing the VIPR/ATAC and Transportation Center Surveillance Protection projects. The VIPR/ATAC operations and the Transportation Center Surveillance Protection project can be scaled down from the original scope based on the award amount. Board authorization is requested to accept the grant and enter into a contract with the DHS to seek reimbursement for the cost of the projects.

Attachment

- A. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Transit Security Grant Program Projects Description

Prepared by:



Jason Huang
Transportation Funding Analyst
(714) 560-5982

Approved by:



Rose Casey
Executive Director, Planning
(714) 560-5729