

**Regional Planning Activities
November 2025**

Activity	Lead Agency	Description	Status	OCTA Interest	OCTA Role
2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)	Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)	Federally required long-range transportation and sustainability plan updated every four years. Addresses mobility, air quality, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Includes a constrained revenue forecast and must meet requirements under the federal Clean Air Act and California Air Resources Board (CARB) GHG targets.	2024 SCS approved by CARB received in June 2025.	Affects funding eligibility and prioritization for projects reliant on state and federally controlled sources.	Collaborate with SCAG on regional plans and policies, and to ensure Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) project submissions are reflected in the RTP/SCS.
Interstate 5 (I-5) Managed Lanes Project	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 12 (D12)	Convert high-occupancy vehicle lanes to high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on I-5 between the Los Angeles County Line and Red Hill Avenue and add a second HOT lane between State Route 57 and State Route 91.	Working to approve the final environmental document; The final environmental document will include identification of the recommended preferred alternative. Previously anticipated approving in summer 2025. Publicly posted schedule has not been updated.	Potential impacts to I-5 operations, and possible discrepancies with policies on OCTA-operated toll facilities. Likely dependent on OCTA to implement some vehicle miles traveled mitigation strategies.	Executive-level communication ongoing with Caltrans D12, Caltrans Headquarters, and other involved agencies.

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Metro E Line Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2	The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro)	Extension of the Metro E Line from East Los Angeles to the City of Whittier via several southeast Los Angeles cities. Advanced conceptual design and environmental studies are completed; potential for future interface with OCTA transit service.	Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified May 2024; design phase through 2028.	Opportunities for transit connections from Orange County to new Metro stations.	Monitoring project status.
Southeast Gateway Line (Formerly West Santa Ana Branch Corridor)	LA Metro	New light rail line connecting downtown Los Angeles to Artesia, following the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way. Potential for future interface with OCTA transit service.	Final EIR certified April 2024; projected opening in 2035. The study is still exploring alignment options between the Slauson/ A Line station and Los Angeles Union Station. The City of Cerritos has expressed interest in an additional station.	Opportunities for transit connections from Orange County to new Metro stations.	Monitoring project status.
Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) Guidelines – 2025 Update	California Transportation Commission	Update to statewide guidelines that define required elements, performance measures, and coordination for CMCP development tied to SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) competitive programs.	Draft guidelines released in July 2025. OCTA comments submitted on August 1, 2025.	Could affect project eligibility and scoring in future SB 1 CMCP-based funding (e.g., Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, Solutions for Congested Corridors Program).	Monitoring updates.

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Director's Policy on Transit	Caltrans	Policy guidance issued by Caltrans to prioritize transit in planning, programming, and project delivery decisions statewide.	Draft Caltrans Director's Policy released in July 2025. Workshop held in August 2025. OCTA submitted comments on August 18, 2025.	May influence Caltrans project scoring or funding eligibility on corridors within Orange County.	Monitoring updates.
National Freight Strategic Plan – 2025 Update	Federal Department of Transportation	Strategic framework for guiding national freight investments, policy, and infrastructure funding.	Request for Information posted in July 2025. OCTA coordinated with Caltrans to provide input.	Plan outcomes may inform federal freight funding priorities and multimodal grant scoring criteria.	Monitoring updates.
California Freight Mobility Plan – 2027 Update	Caltrans	State-level multimodal freight plan to guide investment decisions across ports, highways, rail, and local freight corridors.	Draft goals and strategies shared in July 2025. OCTA feedback provided in August 2025.	Plan outcomes may inform project competitiveness for freight funds; may identify key bottlenecks or priority corridors.	Participate in stakeholder workshops; submit feedback on draft materials.
Transit Transformation Task Force	California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)	State-led task force formed by statute to develop recommendations for transit across California.	Final report and recommendations expected in fall 2025.	Outcomes may influence future funding formulas, performance metrics, and expectations for local match or innovation.	Coordinate with state and regional partners; monitor policy changes and funding implications.
Caltrans System Investment Strategy: Highway Freight Scoring Metric	Caltrans	Framework for identifying investment priorities on the primary and secondary highway freight networks in California.	Technical updates and stakeholder engagement underway for 2025 release.	May affect project eligibility and prioritization for freight-related capital improvements in Orange County.	Review methodology and data inputs; ensure Orange County freight corridors are accurately represented.

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SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) Reform	Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)/ CalSTA	Two parallel efforts to re-evaluate SB 375 legislation and implementation, with a focus on aligning vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction targets with planning, funding, and housing efforts.	MPOs seeking legislative reform by developing recommendations that are expected by late 2025. CalSTA recently initiated a task force with state-appointed members (OCTA was not selected). Task force recommendations expected by November 2026.	Reform may impact SCS development, performance metrics, implementation responsibilities, and funding.	Coordinate with SCAG and other partners to gain insight on development of MPO and task force recommendations; track proposals; provide input as feasible.
Transportation Analysis Framework (TAF)/ Transportation Analysis under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) - 2025 Updates	Caltrans	Update to CEQA guidance and analysis framework for transportation projects on the state highway system, including VMT methodology and mitigation options.	Second edition documents released in September 2025.	Establish VMT analysis and CEQA compliance expectations for projects on the state highway system.	Follow TAF and Transportation Analysis under CEQA guidance for projects on the state highway system.
Federal Waivers and Air Quality Conformity	CARB/ United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)	U.S. EPA revocation of California's Clean Air Act waivers invalidates the CARB emissions model for conformity purposes and has triggered "conformity lockdowns" in nonattainment areas, halting federal approval of new non-exempt projects until resolved.	Legal challenges underway; CARB working to develop necessary model adjustments for U.S. EPA approval; resolution expected to take several months.	Impacts conformity analysis for Federal Transportation Improvement Program and RTP/SCS updates and amendments necessary for non-exempt projects.	Monitor litigation; coordinate with SCAG, CARB, and South Coast Air Quality Management District; assess impacts to OCTA projects and prepare to adjust schedules if needed.

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SCAG 2028 RTP/SCS Development	SCAG	Development of next regional plan due by April 2028; may include new performance metrics, VMT mitigation requirements, and RTP equity framework updates.	Early scoping anticipated in late 2025/early 2026. Preliminary projections in 2025, data collection to begin in 2026, outreach and analysis in 2027, and draft plan and adoption in 2028.	Ensure projects and policies reflect Orange County priorities; monitor for changes to project evaluation criteria.	Engage in technical working groups, contribute data, and policy input.
California Transportation Plan (2050 Update)	Caltrans/CalSTA	Statewide long-range plan update that will influence modal investments, funding priorities, and performance targets.	Expected kickoff 2026; early consultation in 2025.	Ensure Orange County perspectives are reflected; monitor for state VMT/emissions targets that affect project delivery.	Participate in agency advisory groups and provide input through Caltrans District 12.
Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and SIP Updates	South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)	Plans for reducing smog forming emissions, including transportation control measures.	U.S. EPA to designate nonattainment areas by February 2026.	The South Coast Air Basin is expected to be designated as nonattainment. May have policy and funding implications.	Coordinate with SCAG and South Coast AQMD; provide input throughout development of the 2027 AQMP.