



April 9, 2026

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell E. Johnson", is written over the "From:" line of the memo.

Subject: Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with Regional Center of Orange County

Overview

On June 24, 2024, the Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement with the Regional Center of Orange County to share in the cost of providing paratransit service to individuals served by the Regional Center of Orange County. The agreement included an initial two-year term with two additional two-year option terms. The initial term of the agreement expires on June 30, 2026, and an amendment is required to exercise the first two-year option term of the agreement.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-4-2328, in the amount of \$10,257,017, between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Regional Center of Orange County to exercise the first two-year option term to share in the cost of paratransit services provided to individuals served by the Regional Center of Orange County from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028.

Discussion

The Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC), under the Lanterman Act, is responsible for assisting individuals with developmental disabilities by providing services and support that promote independent and integrated living. As part of this responsibility, RCOC arranges and funds transportation services for the individuals it serves.

To meet this need, RCOC utilizes a range of transportation options including Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) fixed-route bus passes, OC ACCESS paratransit service, and privately contracted providers.

Since 2003, OCTA and RCOC have maintained a cost-sharing agreement to provide OC ACCESS service. This arrangement is mutually beneficial and structured in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which allows transit agencies to negotiate rates with social service agencies for services that may exceed minimum ADA requirements.

Under the agreement, individuals served by RCOC receive subscription service, providing a consistent and recurring travel schedule without the need to reserve trips within the standard one-to-three day advance window. Riders are not required to pay a fare at boarding; instead, OCTA tracks all trips provided and submits a detailed monthly invoice to RCOC, including comprehensive trip data to support reconciliation and satisfy state reporting requirements.

Trips provided to individuals served by RCOC represent a significant portion of OC ACCESS ridership. Based on recent trends, OCTA anticipates providing more than 350,000 trips annually during the option term, accounting for approximately one-third of total OC ACCESS demand.

The agreement establishes a negotiated one-way trip rate. The rate was set at \$10.00 for fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 and \$12.00 for FY 2025-26. For subsequent option terms, rates are adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index, as outlined in the agreement. The projected rates are \$12.38 for FY 2026-27 and \$12.77 for FY 2027-28. The estimated reimbursement for the first option term (FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28), is \$10,257,017.

As structured, the agreement does not include a maximum reimbursement cap; all authorized trips are invoiced and reimbursed in accordance with the negotiated rate.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated reimbursement associated with Cooperative Agreement No. C-4-2328 is included in revenue projections for the proposed OCTA FY 2026-27 Budget, Operations Division, Specialized Transit Services, Account No. 0030-5246-00001-SD1.

Summary

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-4-2328, in the amount of \$10,257,017, between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Regional Center of Orange County, to exercise the first two-year option term for a cost-sharing arrangement for the provision of paratransit service to individuals served by the Regional Center of Orange County from July 1, 2026. through June 30, 2028.

Attachment

- A. Regional Center of Orange County Cooperative Agreement No. C-4-2328 Fact Sheet

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