



August 28, 2025

To: Regional Transportation Planning Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Acceptance of Grant Awards from the Southern California Association of Governments and the California Department of Transportation

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority has been awarded two state-funded grants for the countywide active transportation plan, Move OC: A Vibrant Path to Active Transportation. These grant awards include a Southern California Association of Governments Sustainable Communities Program grant for \$400,000 and a California Department of Transportation Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for \$600,000. Board of Directors' approval is required to accept these grants.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to accept the award of \$400,000 in Southern California Association of Governments Sustainable Communities Program funding for Move Orange County: A Vibrant Path to Active Transportation.
- B. Adopt Orange County Transportation Authority Resolution No. 2025-070 authorizing the acceptance of the \$600,000 California Department of Transportation Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant confirming the match which is provided through the grant noted in Recommendation A, and authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute grant agreements and any other required documents or applications.
- C. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the Southern California Association of Governments and the California Department of Transportation.

- D. Authorize staff to make all necessary amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program, as well as execute any necessary agreements to facilitate the recommendations above.

Background

Sustainable Communities Program Grant

On July 8, 2024, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) released a notice of funding opportunity for the Sustainable Communities Program making approximately \$8.2 million available for Community/Areawide Plans and Quick-Build Projects that support active transportation modes such as walking, bicycling, and transit, improve roadway safety, and achieve the mobility goals, planning policies, strategic investments, and implementation strategies of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The Sustainable Communities Program is funded through a set-aside of funding from the Regional Active Transportation Program for planning purposes.

On September 27, 2024, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) submitted an application to SCAG requesting \$400,000 in grant funds for Move OC: A Vibrant Path to Active Transportation (Move OC).

Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant

On October 24, 2024, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released a notice of funding opportunity for the Sustainable Communities Competitive Grant as part of the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program, which made available \$29.5 million to implement strategies of the RTP/SCS and to support the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets.

On January 22, 2025, OCTA submitted an application to Caltrans requesting \$600,000 for Move OC, an updated countywide active transportation plan which could be used in concert with the SCAG Sustainable Communities Program Grant.

Discussion

In December 2024, SCAG notified OCTA that Move OC was selected for \$400,000 in Sustainable Communities Program Grant funding, and the California Transportation Commission approved the awards on June 26, 2025. On

July 1, 2025, Caltrans notified OCTA that Move OC was selected for \$600,000 in Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funding.

Together, these two grants will fully fund the \$1,000,000 countywide active transportation plan. The regionally focused plan aims to provide seamless active transportation systems across the County focused on mode share, safety and comfort, and bicycle and pedestrian network improvement. This plan will support providing Orange County residents of all ages and abilities in choosing safe, non-motorized transportation as their primary mode for everyday trips. The plan will offer infrastructure, programming, policy, and funding recommendations, making it a valuable tool for cities across Orange County to compete for active transportation implementation grants. An overview of the project is included in Attachment A. Attachment B confirms Board of Directors' acceptance of the grants and that the \$400,000 SCAG Sustainable Communities Program Grant will serve as matching funds for the \$600,000 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant. It also authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into grant agreements on behalf of OCTA for this funding program.

Next Steps

Following the acceptance of the SCAG Sustainable Communities Program Grant and the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant, staff will follow OCTA's procurement process and target award of a consultant contract in summer 2026.

Summary

Staff recommends Board of Directors' approval to accept and enter into two grant agreements for the Move OC plan. These grants include an agreement with SCAG for a \$400,000 Sustainable Communities Program Grant award and with Caltrans for a \$600,000 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant award for developing a countywide active transportation plan.

Attachments

- A. Move OC: A Vibrant Path to Active Transportation Fact Sheet
- B. Resolution No. 2025-070 of the Orange County Transportation Authority, 2025-2026 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award Authorization

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