

# Updates to the Ralph M. Brown Act





# Expands Public Access and Participation Requirements

- Requires remote public access and comment via telephone or audiovisual
- Mandates automatic closed captioning (when available) and accessible public-meeting webpages
- Encourages broader participation
- Does not require translated agendas based on current demographic thresholds
- Requires space for public interpreters and a physical location for posting alternative agenda translations



# New Meeting Disruption and Translation-Related Obligations

- Requires adoption of a **Board Meeting Disruption Policy** by July 1, 2026
- Policy will clarify the measures OCTA will take in the event of a meeting disruption that prevents remote public participation through the internet/telephonic means
- As required by SB 707, policy will also provide that if public access is disrupted during the meeting, the Board will recess the meeting for at least one hour or until service is restored
- If service cannot be restored, the Board can only continue the meeting after adopting a finding, by rollcall vote, that good faith efforts were made to restore public access, and the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access

Board – Board of Directors

OCTA – Orange County Transportation Authority



# Expanded Teleconferencing Options for Board Members

- Codifies teleconferencing as a reasonable accommodation for Board Members with disabilities, without public access to their remote location
- Expands **“just cause”** teleconferencing (e.g., illness, medical needs, official travel), with limits on annual use and requirements for quorum and audiovisual participation
  - A quorum of the Board or Committee would be required to participate in person from the meeting location
  - Board Member must participate on camera at all times during the meeting
  - Limitation on number of times Board Members can utilize just cause teleconferencing:
    - 5 x per year for OCTA Board Meetings
    - 2 x per year for each Board Committee Meeting



# Expanded Teleconferencing Options for Board Members

## Staff Recommendation:

- A. Direct staff to return with an Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors Meeting Disruption Policy for consideration by the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors.
- B. Provide direction to staff regarding the ability of Orange County Transportation Authority Board Members to use the “just cause” alternative teleconferencing method and return with a policy for Board of Directors consideration, if directed.