

Meeting of March 11, 2019

Board Receives Measure M Quarterly Progress Report

The Orange County Transportation Authority board received a progress report on Measure M projects and programs for the second quarter of fiscal year 2019-20.

Measure M, also known as OC Go, is Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. The measure was approved by voters in 1990 and renewed in 2006.

Measure M accomplishments from October to December include:

- The Federal Transit Administration and OCTA signed the full-funding grant agreement for the OC Streetcar and right-of-way and utility work began on the project.
- An exterior vehicle design for the OC Streetcar was approved and a request for proposals for the streetcar's operations and maintenance was released.
- Partial bridge demolition activities for the I-405 Improvement Project began at Goldenwest Street, Bolsa Chica Road and Magnolia Street.
- A construction contract with OHL USA, Inc. was approved for the I-5 project between SR-55 and SR-57.
- The public review and circulation period of the draft environmental document and draft project report was completed for the SR-57 Northbound Improvement and SR-91 Improvement projects.
- The environmental document for the I-605/Katella Avenue Interchange Project was completed.

The complete quarterly update can be found at: octa.net/m2reports.

OCTA Looking to Clean Up Transportation-Related Pollution

The OCTA board approved \$2.8 million to help improve water quality throughout Orange County and is looking for local agencies to propose projects that will put the funding to work.

The Environmental Cleanup Program is part of Measure M, also known as OC Go, and dedicates 2 percent of gross revenue from the voter-approved half-cent sales tax for reducing and cleaning transportation-generated pollution.

The current call for projects is intended to reduce visible forms of pollutants, such as litter and debris, which collect on roads. The funding goes toward purchasing and upgrading equipment to prevent the pollutants from making their way from storm drains to the ocean. To date, this program has funded 166 projects, totaling approximately \$22 million.

OCTA will offer a workshop, along with one-on-one meetings by request, to assist local agencies with the application process. Applications are due by May 9 and the funding is expected to be awarded by the board late this summer.

OCTA Delivering on Promises to Taxpayers

OCTA is keeping its promises to deliver transportation improvements to the county in accordance with what was pledged to voters who overwhelmingly approved the renewed Measure M, the half-cent sales tax for such improvements.

That's according to the findings of an independent review presented to the OCTA board, which assessed the performance of how these funds, known as OC Go, are being utilized.

The report indicates that the funds are being spent efficiently to improve Orange County transportation by relieving freeway congestion, fixing potholes, synchronizing traffic signals, enhancing transit and helping the environment by reducing air and water pollution.

The report, presented by independent consultant Sjoberg Evenshenk, looked at a three-year period between July 2015 and June 2018. A triennial report is promised under the terms of Measure M, which was renewed by voters in 2006.

Among the findings, OCTA is:

- On track with meeting the primary goals of Measure M and fulfilling promises
- Making significant progress in all areas of Measure M, including improvements to freeway, streets and public transit
- Operating under sound fiscal practices
- Aligning well with peers reviewed.

The report also shows OCTA's many accomplishments to date with the renewed Measure M, including:

- 43.6 new freeway lane miles; five reconstructed interchanges, seven railroad grade crossings; and eight Metrolink grade crossings or station improvements completed
- 96 million bus boardings provided to seniors and persons with disabilities
- \$342 million toward improving local transportation infrastructure
- 62 million cubic feet of trash collected before reaching Orange County water ways, and 1,300 acres of land that was eligible for development instead preserved as open space.