

Meeting of Aug. 9, 2021

Board Issues \$40 Million Call for Projects to Help Ease Traffic in Orange County

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors issued its annual call for projects aimed at improving traffic flow and reducing congestion in Orange County.

Approximately \$32 million is available through the Regional Capacity Program, which funds intersection improvements and other projects to help reduce congestion. An additional \$8 million is available through the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program, which provides funding to time traffic lights on long stretches of street that can run through multiple cities throughout the county.

Cities and the county can propose projects through both competitive programs, which are funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

Project applications are due by Oct. 21 and are expected to be selected by the board in May 2022.

OCTA Invests \$2.7 Million to Clean Orange County Water

The OCTA board approved nearly \$2.7 million for 10 projects that will improve water quality in Orange County cities from San Clemente to Stanton.

Funded by Measure M, the projects are part of an environmental cleanup program that awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the County of Orange for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation. Efforts are focused on installing devices that remove litter and debris from roads before they reach waterways and the ocean.

The cities that received funding include Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo (2 projects), Orange, Stanton and San Clemente.

The OCTA board has approved funding for 199 projects since the inception of this program in 2011, totaling more than \$30 million. It is estimated that more than 33 million gallons of trash has been captured as a result of the installation of these devices.

For more information on this program, visit octa.net/water.

OCTA Board Awards Contract for 405 Express Lanes Back-Office

The OCTA board approved the selection of Cofiroute USA to provide the back-office system and customer service center for the future 405 Express Lanes.

The 405 Express Lanes are being built on I-405 between SR-73 and I-605 as part of the I-405 Improvement Project. In addition to the toll facility, the project is adding one regular lane in each direction between Costa Mesa and the Orange County/Los Angeles County border and making improvements to local streets, interchanges and freeway on- and off-ramps.

The 405 Express Lanes are scheduled to open once the 405 Improvement Project is completed, scheduled for 2023.