

Meeting of Aug. 10, 2015

\$50 million OK'd to help ease traffic through Measure M

The board approved a \$50 million call for projects that will enhance street operations and reduce congestion in Orange County.

A call for projects will go out through the Measure M Regional Capacity Program and the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program to improve traffic flow and provide intersection improvements.

Both competitive programs are funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. OCTA approved up to \$38 million for street improvements and up to \$12 million for signal synchronization projects.

The Regional Capacity Program funds intersection improvements and other projects to help reduce congestion. The signal synchronization program provides funding to time traffic lights on streets and roads that run through multiple cities throughout Orange County.

Funding will be awarded on a competitive process and will target projects that improve traffic by considering factors such as degree of congestion relief, cost effectiveness and project readiness.

Five annual calls for projects have been issued to date for both programs and collectively, OCTA has provided more than \$246 million countywide for capacity and synchronization improvement projects.

Project applications are due by Oct. 23.

\$3 million in Measure M funds awarded to clean up water

The board approved nearly \$3 million to improve water quality in Orange County.

The funds come from Measure M, a half-cent sales tax approved by Orange County voters in 2006 for transportation improvements. The ballot measure includes funding for an environmental cleanup program that awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the county for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation.

After reviewing 26 applications from 20 cities and the county, the OCTA board approved \$2.9 million for 18 projects focused on removing visible pollutants, such as litter and debris, from roads before they reach waterways. The projects include purchasing or upgrading screens, filters and inserts for catch basins, as well as other devices designed to remove pollutants.

The following cities, along with the county, received funding: Fullerton, La Habra, Orange, Westminster, Mission Viejo, Tustin, Buena Park, Lake Forest, Fountain Valley, Placentia, Rancho Santa Margarita, Irvine, Cypress, Garden Grove, Anaheim, Brea and Laguna Hills.

The OCTA board has approved funding for 102 projects since the inception of this program in 2011, totaling just more than \$11 million. An estimated half-million cubic feet of trash has since been captured.

Board receives capital projects update

The board received a Capital Action Plan update for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The Capital Action Plan is used to assess the progress of highway, grade separation, rail and facility projects from the beginning of the environmental approval phase through construction completion.

In fiscal year 2014-15, 27 of 40 milestones were completed, including two additional milestones that were not in the original plan.

Accomplishments include:

- The I-5 widening project from SR-55 to SR-57 received environmental clearance and moved onto the design phase
- The I-405 improvement project from SR-73 to I-605 received both federal and state environmental clearance
- The I-5 widening project from Alicia Parkway to El Toro Road, the third of three project segments, moved onto the design phase
- Construction was completed on the SR-57 northbound widening from Katella Avenue to Lincoln Avenue

Thirty-four major project milestones are planned to be accomplished in fiscal year 2015-16.