



Measure M1

Fast Facts



Orange County's Half-Cent Sales Tax



Measure M1 delivered transportation solutions

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Measure M (M1) was a 20-year package of transportation improvement projects promised to voters in 1990 when they approved a special half-cent sales tax. The M1 program devoted 75 percent of funds to freeway and street transportation solutions and 25 percent to bus and rail services. M1 included more than a dozen safeguards to ensure the program was delivered as promised. Collection of the M1 sales tax expired on March 31, 2011.

Freeways

Freeway improvement was the cornerstone of the M1 program. M1 delivered the reconfiguration of the El Toro Y where I-5 and the San Diego Freeway (I-405) meet, and the Riverside (SR-91), Orange (SR-57), Costa Mesa (SR-55), Santa Ana/San Diego (I-5) and Garden Grove (SR-22) freeway widenings.

The I-5 Gateway Project, begun in 2006, is now complete. The widening of the Santa Ana Freeway through Buena Park was the last major freeway improvement project under M1. With the completion of the I-5 Gateway Project, the overhaul of the I-5 from the Los Angeles County line to San Juan Capistrano also was completed.

Streets and Roads

Local streets received 21 percent of M1 funds. M1 accounted for approximately 50 percent of the money cities use to fix potholes, coordinate traffic signals and repair and maintain streets. Cities received these funds through a formula based on population, sales tax and street miles, and through a competitive process in which cities submit proposals for improvement projects.

M1 also devoted 11 percent of funds to making major arterial streets, such as Beach Boulevard, Katella Avenue and Imperial Highway, work more efficiently as "Smart Streets" with more lanes, dedicated turn lanes, coordinated signals and better functioning intersections.

Transit

M1 helped fund the Metrolink Service Expansion Plan to bring more frequent weekday train service between Fullerton and Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo. Since 1991, bus fares have been discounted for seniors and persons with disabilities thanks to M1.

Extending Measure M

On November 7, 2006, nearly 70 percent of Orange County voters approved the extension of Measure M for another 30 years. The Renewed Measure M Plan (M2) will ensure transportation improvements to 2041. M2, like the original Measure M Plan, will devote 43 percent of funds to freeway projects, 32 percent to street and road projects, and 25 percent to transit projects.

More Information

For an overview of M2, a list of projects, quarterly and annual reports, visit www.octa.net/M2.

Projects Completed

FREEWAY PROJECTS

- I-5 (I-405 to I-605)
- I-5 (I-5/I-405 to San Juan Capistrano)
- I-5/I-405 Interchange (El Toro Y)
- SR-55 (I-5 to SR-91)
- SR-57 (I-5 to Lambert Road)
- SR-91 (Riverside County line to Los Angeles County line)
- SR-22 (SR-55 to Valley View Street)

REGIONAL STREET & ROAD PROJECTS

- Smart Streets
- Regionally Significant Interchanges
- Intersection Improvement Program
- Traffic Signal Coordination
- Transportation Systems Management and Transportation Demand Management

LOCAL STREET & ROAD PROJECTS

- Master Plan of Arterial Highway Improvements
- Streets & Roads Maintenance and Road Improvements
- Growth Management Area Improvements

TRANSIT PROJECTS

- Pacific Electric Right of Way
- LOSSAN Intercity Rail Program
- LOSSAN Commuter Rail
- Riverside Commuter Rail
- High-Technology Advanced Rail Transit
- Elderly & Handicapped Fare Stabilization
- Transitways