

Senior Mobility Program

Project U Funding and Policy Guidelines

March 2016

1.0 Overview

The Measure M2 (M2) Project U – Senior Mobility Program (SMP) provides funding to support local, community-based transportation service for seniors. Originally established in 2001 using limited state funding for bus operations, M2 Project U SMP funding was established to continue and expand the existing program. A formula funding allocation was established for all Orange County local jurisdictions based upon their senior population. One percent of M2 net revenue is used to fund the program and local jurisdictions must provide a minimum 20 percent local match of the total annual program expenditures.

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors approved these guidelines on *(Date)*. The purpose is to provide structure and definitions for all eligible M2 jurisdictions receiving SMP funding. OCTA shall enforce the provisions spelled out in these guidelines.

2.0 Objectives

- To provide for local, community-based senior transportation services.
- To allow local jurisdictions to develop and implement senior transportation services to serve their community.
- To provide transit options for seniors which complement rather than duplicate OCTA fixed route and ACCESS paratransit service.

3.0 Eligibility Requirements

Participation in the SMP is contingent upon maintaining M2 eligibility. Local jurisdictions must be eligible to receive M2 funding, established on an annual basis as specified in the M2 Ordinance Requirements for Eligible Jurisdictions, to receive the formula allocation for this program.¹ Adherence to strict funding guidelines is required.

Local jurisdictions are required to submit a Service Plan as described in Section 7.0 and must enter into a cooperative funding agreement with OCTA that defines the conditions of use of SMP funds prior to receiving their SMP funding allocation.

¹ Orange County Transportation Authority Ordinance No. 3, Attachment B, Section III

4.0 Funding Allocation Method & Distribution

Funding for the program is identified as one percent of M2 net sales tax revenue and will be allocated to eligible local jurisdictions based upon the participating jurisdiction's percentage of the senior population of the county. Senior population is determined by using the most current official decennial Census information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Funding allocations are based on actual sales tax receipts. Funding will be distributed on a bi-monthly basis. SMP funds must be expended within three years of receipt.

OCTA may grant a two-year extension beyond the three-year expenditure limitation; however, an extension may not exceed five years from the date of the initial funding allocation. Jurisdictions requesting an extension beyond the three-year limitation must submit a justification letter for review and approval by OCTA at least 90 days prior to the end of the third fiscal year.

In the event the time limits for use of SMP funds are not satisfied, any retained SMP funds that were allocated to an eligible jurisdiction, including interest, shall be returned to OCTA.

5.0 Match Requirements

Participating jurisdictions must provide a minimum 20 percent local match of the total annual program expenditures. Match funding may be made up of cash subsidies, fare revenues, donations, or in-kind contributions such as salaries and benefits for the jurisdiction's employees who perform work on the program. Jurisdictions may also be required to submit supporting documentation to substantiate local match expenditures. Jurisdictions are not required to contribute the minimum match requirement on a monthly basis; however, the minimum 20 percent match requirement must be met by the end of each fiscal year, defined as June 30.

Jurisdictions not satisfying the annual 20 percent match shall be subject to withholding of funds from future bi-monthly allocations equal to the difference between the amount of Measure M funds actually spent and the amount of Measure M funds actually matched.

Example:

Total Program Expenditures	\$100,000
Total M2 Funding Allocation	\$ 80,000
20% Required Match	\$ 20,000
Actual Reported Match	\$ 15,000

Withholding Calculation:

Total M2 Funds Spent	\$ 80,000
M2 Funding Eligibility Based on Actual Reported Match	- \$ 60,000
Withholding from Future Allocation(s)	\$ 20,000

6.0 Service Guidelines

Services provided under the SMP are available to individuals 60 years of age and older. Jurisdictions have discretion in the types of trips provided within Orange County, such as trips to/from senior centers, medical appointments, shopping, personal care, and social/recreational activities. Jurisdictions should use discretion when providing trips for social/recreational activities when developing their Service Plan to ensure prudent and appropriate use of taxpayer funds. SMP trips outside Orange County are restricted to medical trips only within approximately 10 miles of the Orange County border.

Jurisdictions also have discretion in how the service is operated. Senior transportation services may be operated using employees, volunteers, or the jurisdiction may contract with a third-party service contractor. Contractors must be selected using a competitive procurement process and the jurisdiction must ensure the contractor is in compliance with program guidelines and provisions included in the cooperative funding agreement.

Jurisdictions whose program offers subsidized taxi service for seniors must ensure trips provided with SMP funding are consistent with the trip types as specified in these guidelines.

Wheelchair accessible vehicles must be available for SMP service.

Jurisdictions will perform, or ensure that a contractor performs, maintenance of all vehicles used in the Senior Mobility Program. Jurisdictions will ensure that its operators, or its contracted operators, are properly licensed and trained to proficiency to perform duties safely, and in a manner which treats its riders with respect and dignity.

Jurisdictions may receive retired OCTA ACCESS paratransit vehicle(s) to support their senior transportation program. Additional retired ACCESS vehicles may be

purchased, based on availability, for a cost equivalent to the refurbishment costs incurred by OCTA.

7.0 Service Plan Adoption

Participating jurisdictions shall submit to OCTA a SMP Service Plan which defines program services (Exhibit A). The Service Plan must be submitted using a template provided by OCTA and must be adopted by the jurisdiction's governing body and approved by the OCTA Board of Directors. Any deviation from the adopted SMP Service Plan must be submitted to OCTA in advance for review and approval and will require an amendment to the cooperative funding agreement prior to implementing a change in program services.

8.0 Eligible Expenses

Participating jurisdictions shall ensure M2 funds are used for eligible direct program-related expenses which may include contract service providers, staff time, vehicle maintenance, fuel, insurance, vehicle acquisition, program supplies and materials, marketing materials, and community outreach. Jurisdictions shall ensure all costs are program-related and are fair and reasonable. Administrative costs up to 10 percent are allowed and considered eligible program expenses. All program expenses are subject to audit.

No M2 funding shall be used by a jurisdiction for other than transportation purposes authorized in the M2 Ordinance.

9.0 Program Revenue

Participating jurisdictions must maintain adequate controls for collecting and reporting program revenue, including donations, fees, and cash fares. Program revenue must be used to support the transportation service and may be used as part of the jurisdiction's 20 percent local match requirement.

10.0 Reporting

Participating jurisdictions are required to submit monthly reports using a reporting template provided by OCTA (Exhibit B). Required monthly reporting data may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Number of Trips by Category
- Vehicle Service Hours
- Vehicle Service Miles

- Program Cost Detail by Expense Category and % of Total Operating Cost
- Fares, Fees and Other Operating Revenue
- Jurisdiction Total Contribution & Source
- Jurisdiction Share as % of Total Operating Cost
- Cumulative Jurisdiction Share to Date
- OCTA Contribution
- OCTA Contribution as % of Total Operating Cost
- Cumulative Contribution Received from OCTA
- Total Monthly Program Operating Cost
- Cumulative Total Program Operating Cost

Jurisdictions shall also be required to maintain supporting documentation to substantiate reporting data. Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to, actual receipts, contractor invoices, trip sheets, payroll, timesheets, fuel logs, and maintenance records/receipts.

Reports are due by the last day of the following month. A preliminary report may be submitted; however, submission of a final report is required within 15 days of the last day of the following month. Failure to meet the established reporting deadline for two months at any time during the fiscal year may result in future withholding of funding and/or other sanctions to be determined.

11.0 Audits & Inspection of Records

M2 funding is subject to audit. Jurisdictions shall maintain program documentation and records for a period of no less than five years. Program documents and records, including but not limited to payroll, trip sheets, invoices, vehicle maintenance, fuel, and other program-related expenses, shall be available for review by OCTA SMP administrators, auditors, and authorized agents upon request. Jurisdictions must follow established accounting requirements and applicable laws regarding the use of public funds. Failure to submit to an audit in a timely manner may result in withholding or loss of future funding. Failure to comply with the approved Service Plan will require remediation which may include repayment, reduction in overall allocation, and/or other sanctions to be determined by the OCTA Board of Directors.

Audits shall be conducted by the OCTA Internal Audit Department, or other authorized agent, as determined by OCTA.

OCTA's failure to insist in any one or more instances of a jurisdiction's performance of the provisions set forth in these guidelines shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of the jurisdiction's obligation to comply with these guidelines.

Moreover, only the OCTA Board of Directors shall have the authority to alter and/or waive any requirements/obligations set forth in these guidelines.