

Meeting of March 14, 2022

\$3 Million Available to Protect Orange County Beaches and Waterways

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors issued a call for projects aimed at improving overall water quality in Orange County.

Approximately \$3 million in competitive funding is available through OCTA's Environmental Cleanup Program for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation by removing litter and debris before it reaches the ocean and other waterways.

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

It is estimated that more than 45 million gallons of trash have been captured through this program since its inception in 2011.

Project applications are due by June 16 and are expected to be selected by the board in the fall.

Board Receives Update on Efforts to Synchronize Traffic Signals

The OCTA board received an update on a program dedicated to coordinating traffic signals throughout the county to improve the flow of traffic.

OCTA has been working with local cities, the county and Caltrans on a study that evaluates and updates the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program with current traffic and technology trends in mind to further benefit drivers.

The results of the study indicate that the program has been successful in improving traffic flow, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and saving drivers time and money on fuel costs.

In the first decade since the program launched in 2009, traffic signals at more than 7,750 intersections along 705 miles have been synchronized. These enhancements have improved travel times by 13%, increased speeds by 14% and reduced stops by 29%.

To further improve the program, changes will be made to ensure that all synchronized signals are periodically evaluated to maximize traffic flow. Updates include:

- Retiming approximately 2,500 traffic signals along major streets to ensure that signal timing is based on current traffic volumes
- Separating Orange County into zones that will be retimed on a regular basis moving forward

The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program is funded in part by Measure M, with additional funding from local cities, the county and Caltrans.

Measure M Continues to Deliver Projects and Programs that Keep Orange County Moving

OCTA's board received a quarterly report that highlights the progress of Measure M's projects and programs from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021.

Highlights include:

- Work progressed on the I-405 Improvement Project, which is now approximately 75% complete. Eight of the project's 18 bridge replacements are now finished with the opening of the Edinger Avenue and Bolsa Chica Road bridges.
- The SR-55 Improvement Project between I-405 and I-5 was advertised for construction. Construction on the project is expected to begin in the summer.
- The board issued \$40 million in Measure M funding to help ease traffic in Orange County through the Regional Capacity and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization programs. Applications are currently under review and are expected to be awarded by the board in the spring.
- Concrete for the extension of Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station's existing platform was poured and footing for the new platform was placed.
- The Fifth Street grade crossing for the OC Streetcar was completed with the installation of rail, crossing panels, and paving.