

Meeting of Aug. 13, 2018

Draft Long-Range Transportation Plan to be Released for Public Comment

The OCTA board approved releasing to the public the draft 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan, a plan OCTA develops every four years to examine the county's expected transportation needs, accounting for changes in demographics, the economy and available funding.

OCTA's 2018 long-range plan analyzes travel conditions based on projections for 2040, which assume a 10 percent growth in population, 11 percent growth in housing and 17 percent growth in employment in Orange County.

The plan details projects and services aimed at accommodating the increasing transportation demand. It also explores how emerging innovations and policies – including Transportation Network Companies and autonomous and electric vehicles – may impact transportation.

Once released, the public will be able to comment on the draft plan through surveys, at community events and at an open house, as well as at a telephone town hall that will allow the public to call in to a live Q&A session.

The final Long-Range Transportation Plan is expected to be presented to the OCTA board in the fall. The findings of the plan will then be submitted to the Southern California Association of Governments, where it will serve as Orange County's input into the Regional Transportation Plan.

\$40 million OK'd to Help Ease Traffic Through OC Go

The OCTA board approved a \$40 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, also known as OC Go, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements renewed by Orange County voters in 2006. OCTA approved up to \$32 million for street improvements and up to \$8 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.

To date, OCTA has provided \$386 million countywide for capacity and synchronization improvement projects.

Project applications are due by Oct. 18. Based on the selection criteria, projects will be prioritized for board consideration in the spring.

OC Flex Microtransit Program Expected to Launch this Fall

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors received an update on the planned OC Flex microtransit pilot program and approved the service's fare structure.

The one-year pilot program will provide an on-demand, shared ride service with short wait times and curb-to-curb pickup and drop-off. The program will be offered in two zones, each covering about six square miles. One zone is in parts of Huntington Beach and Westminster and the other includes areas in Aliso Viejo, Laguna Niguel and Mission Viejo.

For a day of unlimited travel, riders using the OC Flex service will have the option to pay \$5 cash when boarding or \$4.50 through the mobile app when booking their ride. In addition, riders with a full-fare OC Bus day pass or Metrolink or Amtrak ticket can transfer to OC Flex for free from a bus stop or train station within the zones.