

Meeting of Oct. 8, 2018

Grant Awarded to Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

The California Office of Traffic Safety awarded OCTA \$75,000 in grant funding that will be used to fund pedestrian and bicycle safety in Orange County.

The grant will help pay for additional classes intended to raise public awareness about practices that best keep cyclists and pedestrians safe on Orange County streets. The grants are awarded throughout California on a competitive basis.

OCTA applied for the grant in response to the nearly 17 percent increase in the number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities on Orange County roads since 2010. Activities to be funded by this year's grant include:

- Classroom and bicycle skills training
- Distribution of bicycle lights and helmets
- Distribution of reflectors for pedestrians
- Training of safety instructors to carry on the message.

This year's grant is part of an ongoing effort to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists. From 2012-2014, at least 39 bicyclists and 152 pedestrians were killed and more than 6,700 bicyclists and pedestrians were injured on Orange County streets. Recognizing that this is an issue that affects all of Orange County, OCTA applied for the grant starting in 2016.

That year, OCTA received a \$50,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety that helped pay for production of two safety videos addressing some of the primary reasons why collisions occur.

Significant Progress Achieved on Measure M2 Projects from April to June

The board received a progress report on Measure M2 projects and programs within the period of April through June 2018.

M2 program accomplishments included:

- Advancement of the project to improve Interstate 5 between Oso Parkway to Alicia Parkway/La Paz Road, which is ready to list for construction bids. Advertisement is scheduled for later this month.
- Bids for the Interstate 5 between State Route 55 and State Route 57 project were opened in May. The three lowest bidders were deemed unresponsive and the California Department of Transportation will rebid the project. Applications will open on Oct. 18.

- OCTA submitted the first reimbursement request for the loan agreement for the I-405 Improvement Project for \$165 million and received that amount in April.
- In June, the OCTA board awarded \$32 million of Measure M funding to 11 projects related to arterial and intersection widening, and another \$8.9 million to six projects for signal synchronization. That also helped leverage approximately \$6 million in SB1 funding.

The complete quarterly update can be found at: www.octa.net/m2reports.

Interstate 5/El Toro Road Interchange Project Moves Ahead

Caltrans presented an update on plans to improve the interchange at El Toro Road and Interstate 5 near the cities of Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods and Lake Forest.

With an increase in traffic volumes in the area around the I-5/El Toro Interchange, several options are being reviewed to redesign on- and off-ramps and improve traffic flow in the area.

Caltrans presented four options that are being considered to improve traffic conditions. Those options were presented to the public during an open house discussing the project at the Laguna Woods City Hall in July.

Earlier this year a preliminary design study and a traffic volume analysis were also completed.

A public hearing on the project is tentatively scheduled for April 2019, which will be followed by a 30-day review period to get more public input. After that, a preferred design alternative will move forward.

For more information on the project, visit www.octa.net/eltorointerchange.