



August 3, 2020

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Grant Acceptance for the Orange County Bike Connectors Gap Closure Feasibility Study

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority was recently awarded \$160,000 for the Orange County Bike Connectors Gap Closure Feasibility Study through the statewide Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. In order to utilize these grant funds, staff is seeking Board of Directors' approval to accept the award and enter into agreements with the granting agencies.

Recommendations

- A. Adopt Orange County Transportation Authority Resolution No. 2020-064 and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to accept the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant award and execute grant-related agreements and documents with the California Department of Transportation and the Southern California Association of Governments.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend the Federal Transportation Improvement Program and process all necessary amendments to facilitate the recommendation above.

Background

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program was created to support the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) mission to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance the State of California's economy and livability. On August 16, 2019, Caltrans issued a fiscal year 2020-21 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant statewide call for projects, which made available approximately \$34 million to regional and local agencies for transportation planning grants. In response to this opportunity, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) submitted a request for \$160,000 for the Orange County Bike Connectors Gap Closure Feasibility Study.

The planning effort would evaluate the potential to expand regional bikeway connections throughout Orange County. This will build on the OC Loop concept identifying additional branded regional bikeways throughout Orange County.

Discussion

On June 18, 2020, OCTA was notified that Caltrans selected the study for funding. This study builds on previously-envisioned bikeways across the County building on prior studies by the Southern California Association of Governments and OCTA. These studies culminated in the first countywide active transportation plan called “OC Active” completed in December 2019. OC Active, developed in conjunction with local agencies, identified the almost-complete OC Loop (north), and newly-proposed bikeways called South Loop and Central Loop, as well as a cross-county connector, which will link all three bicycle “loops” connecting to regional and local bikeway networks.

The plan will result in a study with recommendations for the most cost-effective solutions to provide a continuous and high-quality bikeway network. Cost estimates and project details will be developed, positioning local jurisdictions for funding pursuits or utilization of local funds to advance the bikeways.

The award of \$160,000 will be matched with \$40,000 State Transportation Improvement Program Planning, Programming, and Monitoring funds, for a total cost of \$200,000, and will support the study in its entirety. In order to execute the grant agreement, OCTA is seeking Board approval of Resolution No. 2020-064 (Attachment A).

Next Steps

Following execution of the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grants, staff will follow OCTA’s procurement process to award professional services contracts in the fall or winter of 2020.

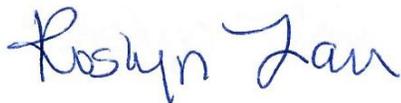
Summary

OCTA was awarded \$160,000 through a competitive grant from Caltrans. A resolution to accept the grant award and authorization to enter into grant-related agreements and documents is presented for adoption as required by the grant program.

Attachment

- A. Resolution No. 2020-064 of the Orange County Transportation Authority, 2020-2021 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program Authorization

Prepared by:



Roslyn Lau
Senior Transportation Funding Analyst
(714) 560-5341

Approved by:



Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning
(714) 560-5741