



# *CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT*

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MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2008

ITEM NUMBER:

**SUBJECT: OCTA "GO LOCAL" PROGRAM**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2008**

**FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION**

**PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI, ACTING PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: PETER NAGHAVI, ACTING PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR - (714) 754-5182**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve Cooperative Agreement between the City of Costa Mesa and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for the "Go Local" Program (Attachment 1);
2. Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to accept minor revisions to the agreement based on further discussions with OCTA staff and counsel;
3. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the final agreement; and
4. Direct staff to schedule a joint City Council meeting with the City of Newport Beach following the execution of the Cooperative Agreement with OCTA.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On February 14, 2006, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors approved a four-step process for Orange County cities to develop their own transit vision to bring Metrolink access to their communities. The intent of this locally initiated program is to make the usage of Metrolink more convenient to more users.

The four steps are:

- OCTA will provide a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to each City to develop a local transit vision and to conduct initial planning. Cities are eligible to receive \$100,000 upon execution of a cooperative agreement with OCTA and submittal of an acceptable project concept;
- OCTA will make available an additional \$30 million in early 2008 to further develop the most promising projects in the County on a competitive basis;
- Upon availability of renewed Measure M funds, OCTA will move projects to implementation; and
- Provide resources transforming existing Metrolink stations to major multi-modal transportation centers.

OCTA has established a deadline of March 1, 2008 to approve all "Go Local" grant applications. Funds provided as part of Step One can be used on the following tasks:

- Assessment of travel needs or local travel patterns to extend the reach of Metrolink;
- Transit shuttle planning or implementation which connects to Metrolink;
- Supporting transit-friendly land use planning in the vicinity of Metrolink stations; and
- Evaluation of specific rights-of-way for use as a transit corridor connection to Metrolink.

OCTA will then, through a competitive evaluation process, select several high ranking projects for further development and implementation.

**ANALYSIS:**

The Cities of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa have met several times to discuss partnering on a transit study related to connections between Metrolink and John Wayne Airport (JWA). Both cities have long been active in developing solutions to the County’s aviation challenges. A feasibility study evaluating various means to connect rail and/or bus transit to John Wayne Airport would be consistent with the goal of addressing ground congestion and operational impacts of JWA. This “Go Local” feasibility study would also be part of a broader analysis, funded by other sources, which will evaluate mechanisms to efficiently move Orange County air passengers to Inland Empire airports, as a means to implement a regional aviation system.

The scope of work will focus on two areas of study:

1. Analysis of Aviation-Related Issues:
  - a. Evaluation of the demographics and geographic distribution of Orange County air passengers and JWA employees to determine passenger demand for a JWA/Metrolink connection. The study team, working closely with the County of Orange/John Wayne Airport staff, will evaluate the passenger data collected for the 2007 JWA Passenger survey to detail the specific operating parameters that would create/induce use of Metrolink service by airport passengers and employees.
  - b. Assess the structural, administrative, and operational issues that impact a rail or bus transit link into JWA.
2. Evaluation of Alternate Transit Modes and Alignments into JWA:
  - a. Alternate transit modes include express bus, light rail, and Diesel Multiple Units (DMU).
  - b. Review previous and current transit studies completed by OCTA, the cities of Irvine and Tustin, Metrolink, and other public agencies that might be suitable for a JWA transit connection. The intention of this study is not to duplicate work already done or in process, but to complement the work with specific airport-related analysis. Augment the data and findings of these studies with additional analysis as necessary.
  - c. Assess various transit configurations into JWA, based on security and operational considerations.
  - d. Evaluate the feasibility for transit connections from various locations in Costa Mesa and Newport Beach to JWA and Metrolink.

In order to receive OCTA’s funding and initiate the study, the City Council approval of a cooperative agreement with OCTA is required. This agreement defines roles and responsibilities of each agency and authorizes the City to invoice OCTA for the “Go

Local” funds. Then the “Go Local” application as well as the cooperative agreement is presented to OCTA Board for approval. Once OCTA approves the “Go Local” grant application and cooperative agreement, the Cities of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa will hold a joint City Council meeting to review the study’s goals as they relate to JWA operations and future Orange County aviation capacity issues, as well as review and approve a cooperative agreement between the two cities that will define the parameters of the partnership. Therefore, the approval of this matter before City Council is considered contingent upon execution of cooperative agreement by OCTA’s Board of Directors.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The City Council may elect to not approve the cooperative agreements. This will result in the City forfeiting \$100,000 initial grant funding to explore transit connection options to JWA and future grant funding opportunities for implementation of transit improvements.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City with this item. OCTA is providing the \$100,000 funding for the study. The City will be transferring that funding over to the City of Newport Beach through a future cooperative agreement. No City funding is anticipated for the initial study.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

The City Attorney office is reviewing the Cooperative Agreement with OCTA. It is likely that there may be some minor edits to the agreement based on final review with OCTA counsel. These comments will be incorporated prior to acceptance by City Attorney and execution by the Mayor and City Clerk.

**CONCLUSION:**

OCTA has initiated a new locally initiated transit program called “Go Local”, which is intended to make Metrolink service more accessible to more users. As part of this effort, OCTA is providing grants to each participating City in the amount of \$100,000 to develop a transit vision that extends the connection of Metrolink into their community. The City of Costa Mesa is working with the City of Newport Beach in developing a project concept plan that analyzes JWA operations and determines the feasibility of connecting JWA with Metrolink and the possibility of further extensions to other regional airports. City Council approval of the attached cooperative agreement is requested to enable the City of Costa Mesa to receive funding from OCTA and to initiate the study with the City of Newport Beach.

Once OCTA approves the City’s “Go Local” application and the cooperative agreement, a joint City Council meeting with the City of Newport Beach will be held to outline in detail the scope of the study and partnership parameters. The Councils will also be presented with the cooperative agreement between the two agencies for review and approval.

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**PETER NAGHAVI**

Acting Public Services Director

Attachments: 1. [Cooperative Agreement with OCTA](#)

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager  
Assistant City Manager  
City Attorney  
City Clerk  
Deputy City Manager-Development Services Director  
Director of Public Services  
Staff  
File