



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2016

Contact: Shannon Widor, OC Public Works
(714) 667-9759 (w) or (714) 438-9707 (cell)
shannon.widor@ocpw.ocgov.com

Orange County Public Works Receives Board Approval for First Bikeway Program as Part of its Comprehensive 7-Year Capital Improvement Program

The seven-year improvement program identifies transportation, flood control and bikeway projects in communities throughout the county.

Orange County (OC) Public Works received approval from the Orange County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday for the department's Seven-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which serves as a roadmap for investing over \$545 million in the public infrastructure elements of transportation, flood control and bikeway corridors in communities throughout the county over the next seven years.

Each year, OC Public Works develops the CIP to identify infrastructure projects, priorities and funding in preparation of the fiscal year's budget. This is the first time OC Public Works applied for, and received approval of, a comprehensive and fiscally-constrained improvement program that identifies funding for each phase of each planned project over the next seven years.

Of the total funding amount, approximately \$53 million is dedicated toward bikeway program funding, a first for the County of Orange. With a high potential for leveraging grant funds, priorities identified for the new bikeway program include completing the 66-mile OC Loop, connecting regional bikeway gaps, and completing priorities based on Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bikeway route studies.

"This Capital Improvement Program represents the County's, particularly the Board of Supervisors', commitment to developing these projects and initiatives that enhance our communities for the people we serve," said Shane Silsby, Director of OC Public Works. "This program sets in motion our delivery of expanded bikeway opportunities, roadway projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic congestion, and enhancements to the effectiveness of our flood control facilities that protect neighborhoods. This is an exciting time for OC Public Works, the County and our residential and businesses communities."

The investment in bikeway corridor improvements is intended to advance Active Transportation Program efforts to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, increase the proportion of trips by cycling or walking, increase the safety and mobility of non-motorized users, provide cyclists with regional connectivity throughout Orange County and enhance public health. The funding for bikeway corridor improvements is provided by OC Public Works, OC Parks and various grant funds. The bikeway program portion of the CIP proposes a total of 10 projects consisting of over 16 miles of new trails and on-street facilities throughout the county, with specific focus on enhancing access for cyclists and pedestrians along the County's 380 miles of flood control facilities.

The Seven-Year CIP is an annual eligibility requirement for the County to continue to receive and compete for Renewed Measure M (M2) grant funds. Approval of the program will support OC Public Works' eligibility to secure M2 funds and complete roadway and active transportation projects necessary to enhance public safety, reduce traffic construction, and complete bicycle corridors.

M2 funds are utilized by the County as a major funding component for the transportation elements of the CIP. All cities

- more -

within the County, and the County itself, are required to adopt a CIP, update it annually and provide it to OCTA as a requirement of eligibility to receive and compete for M2 funds. OCTA requires that all individual transportation-related projects, for which M2 funds may be sought, be listed in the CIP for purposes of identifying potential future project-funding needs.

M2 is an important project financing or revenue source for the CIP which the County voters approved on November 7, 2006. This multi-billion dollar program extends the original Measure M (1991-2011) in supporting new projects and programs for a 30-year period. The M2 funds, similar to Measure M, are generated from a one-half-cent sales tax for transportation purposes. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) administers M2 funds supporting improvements to the County's transportation infrastructure.

About OC Public Works

OC Public Works is a County of Orange department that provides services on a regional basis to unincorporated areas, to cities and to other County agencies and departments. The department protects and enriches communities through efficient delivery and maintenance of public works infrastructure, planning and development services, environmental resources and consumer protection programs.

More information and updates about OC Public Works are available at www.OCPublicWorks.com. You can also follow OC Public Works on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OCPublicWorks and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/OCPublicWorks.

###