

**CITY OF DANA POINT
AGENDA REPORT**

Reviewed By:	
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DATE: MARCH 22, 2006

TO: CITY MANAGER/CITY COUNCIL

FROM: KYLE BUTTERWICK, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: OCTA GRANT REQUEST TO CONDUCT TROLLEY SYSTEM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the City Council:

- (1) authorize staff to submit a grant application to OCTA requesting \$100,000 to conduct trolley/bus system needs assessment for Dana Point in cooperation with the cities of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano, and
- (2) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OCTA for receipt of funds.

ISSUES:

1. Does the Council seek to assess the needs of a trolley/bus system to improve transportation and relieve congestion within Dana Point in cooperation with neighboring cities?

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Implementation of a trolley system is in compliance with the Strategic Plan Initiative to foster a vibrant business climate.

BACKGROUND:

Funding totaling \$30 million in existing Measure M funds has been allocated by OCTA for cities to study options for linking Metrolink stations with major activity centers. The first step in the process is the allocation of \$100,000 in planning funds to each Orange County city interested in pursuing a local transit project that would provide linkage to an existing Metrolink station. Partnering by cities adjacent to those with Metrolink stations is encouraged in anticipation of a system of countywide transit extending from the

Metrolink stations that could be funded by a potential renewal of Measure M. Connection to population in non Metrolink-station cities will increase a project's merit.

DISCUSSION:

The City of San Clemente initiated discussions with the City of San Juan Capistrano and City of Dana Point as to the possibility of utilizing these funds for conducting a needs assessment for a trolley/bus system which would benefit each city. Each city would receive \$100,000, for a total planning pool of \$300,000. Each city would enter into a MOU with OCTA which commits the cities to a shared approach. Since the purpose of the funding is to increase transit access to Metrolink, the Metrolink station city would take the lead in the assessment. At this stage in the process, San Clemente would be taking the lead. However, the assessment should review our opportunities to coordinate with all potential transit stops near the City. Additional funding for capital improvement purchases and operation will then be sought through OCTA's competitive grant process which will open in Spring 2007.

The results of the needs assessment may also assist the City in utilizing its Coastal Transit fund, which was created by a coastal access fee imposed by the California Coastal Commission in the early 80's on new development in what is now the Salt Creek corridor (Monarch Beach Specific Plan). The purpose of Coastal Transit fund is to decrease congestion along the coast as well as improve coastal assess. In 2002 the Coastal Commission distributed the funds to the City of Dana Point for the purpose of implementing a coastal transit program. Use of the funds, which totals just over \$1 million, has been delayed to allow the City to identify an appropriate project and to allow for the planning efforts of the Harbor and Town Center to be better understood. Completion of the needs assessment will assist in the effort.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impacts are associated with the proposed project.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

1. Do not approve the MOU and do not request further discussions with other cities. It is not appropriate for the City to implement a transit program with surrounding jurisdictions.
2. Other action as directed by the City Council.

ACTION DOCUMENTS:

None.

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