

Meeting of August 28, 2017

August Employees of the Month Honored

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for July.

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Manual Esparza, coach operator
- F. Ross Zieke, maintenance
- Jason Lee, administration

Workshop Explores Managed Lanes

A managed lanes workshop was held at the recommendation of the board, in order to have a discussion about the projected growth and limited options to widen highways beyond Measure M2. Managed lanes are highway lanes that are not general-purpose lanes, they are restricted by price or vehicle type.

With the emergence of express lanes and express lanes plans in neighboring counties, as well plans for Orange County, the board sought to explore the subject including the national, state and regional outlook. Managed lanes have become increasingly popular to accommodate the future demand of highway travel, especially with the growing population and traffic in Southern California. A primary goal for the workshop was to focus on a strategy beyond the Measure M2 freeway program.

OCTA assembled a panel of expert transportation professionals for the forum:

- Robert Poole, the co-founder of the Reason Foundation and Director of Transportation Policy, spoke about national policy and how toll lanes generally operate.
- Kome Ajise, Chief Deputy Director at the California Department of Transportation, provided his expertise in regards to state policy and perspective.
- Patrick Jones, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of International Bridge Tunnel and Turnpike Association, discussed the use of tolls as an important tool and the strategic nature of how they are being implemented.
- Stephen Finnegan, Manager of Government and Community Affairs at the Automobile Club of Southern California, spoke on behalf of AAA users' values and the importance of educating the public on the role of managed lanes in improving mobility.

OCTA Issues RFP for Toll Lane Integrator Services

The board approved releasing a request for proposals for the toll lanes system integrator services for both the 405 express lanes and 91 express lanes. The toll integrator services include the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the electronic toll and traffic management systems.

OCTA is implementing the Interstate 405 improvement project between State Route 73 and Interstate 605. The project will break ground next year, adding one general-purpose lane in each direction, consistent with Measure M2 and adding an additional lane in each direction that would combine with

the existing high-occupancy vehicle lane to provide dual express lanes in each direction, known as the 405 Express Lanes.

OCTA is scheduled to replace the 91 Express Lanes toll lanes system integrator in the next few years, therefore combining the procurement with the 405 Express Lanes is a cost-effective and efficient approach, encouraging competition and state of the art technology.

The agreement resulting from this procurement will have an initial term of 10 years, with two two-year option terms.

Board Receives Regional Rail Quarterly Report

The Regional Rail and Facilities Engineering departments are responsible for implementing OCTA's railroad capital projects including station parking enhancements and expansions, new station developments, expanded rail services, OC Streetcar, and transit facilities engineering. The departments are also responsible for ensuring rail systems support. The update covered multiple projects including:

Rail capital projects include new station developments, station parking enhancements, grade separations and grade crossing enhancements, and various other track and infrastructure projects.

Station Improvements:

- Station improvements at the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Station are expected to be completed in October. The work includes access ramps, new restrooms, a vending machine room, storage rooms, additional benches and shade structures.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held to kick off construction on the Orange Parking Structure. The new structure includes 611 parking spaces, 500 for Metrolink station riders and the remaining 111 spaces are for general use of downtown Orange. The city led the design of the project and OCTA is the lead for construction. Completion of the project is anticipated to be in early 2019.
- The Placentia Metrolink Station plans are anticipated to be complete and will be advertised for construction in October 2017 with an anticipated completion date of fall 2019. The station will be located on the BNSF Railway and Placentia-owned right-of-way. OCTA is lead for design and construction and the station will include platforms parking, a new bus stop and passenger amenities.
- The Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station improvement project includes the addition of a second station track, platform, the extension of the existing platform and passenger amenities such as ticket vending machines, benches, canopies and signage. OCTA is leading the project, expected to get underway in June 2019 and be finished in August 2020.
- The City of Fullerton is the lead agency on a project to add an elevator tower to each side of the existing railroad pedestrian bridge at the Fullerton Transportation Center and modify the restrooms. The estimated completion is September 2018.

Rail Corridor Improvements: Consist of projects that improve the safety, operations, or reliability of the rail infrastructure. OCTA owns over 45 miles of operating railroad.

Transit Extensions to Metrolink: The Transit Extensions to Metrolink Program is intended to broaden the reach of Orange County's backbone rail system to key employment, population, and activity centers.

- The OC Streetcar project will serve the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center through downtown Santa Ana, and the Civic Center to Harbor Boulevard in the City of Garden Grove.

Rail Operations: OCTA is one of five member agencies that compromise Metrolink, OCTA participates in the design and operation of Metrolink service in Orange County. Rail operations staff serve as the liaison with Metrolink and are involved in route and service planning, funding, and implementation. In addition to coordination of daily Metrolink operations, the team coordinates the StationLink service, special trains, promotional activities and outreach.

- The Metrolink Angels Express service continues for the 2017 season, serving 54 weekday home games, including 15 Friday night games from the Inland Empire. In July and August, kids 18 and under ride for free on Angel Express trains. To date, ridership is down by 24 percent, compared to the same period last year.
- Mobile ticketing is now available throughout the Metrolink app, with more than 20 percent of Metrolink's passenger's systemwide as users.

Transit Facilities Engineering: The development and implementation of capital rehabilitation, facility modifications, and new capital projects for all OCTA transit facilities, including the five bus bases and seven park-and-ride lots. There are currently six projects where design is underway, three projects in the bid phase for construction and five projects under construction.

For the period covering the third quarter of FY 2016-17, projects generally progressed consistent with scope and schedule.