

Meeting of January 25, 2021

January Employees of the Month Recognized

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

The honors went to:

- David Durand, a coach operator working out of the Santa Ana base. David achieved six years of safe driving in July. He has been a line captain for four years and is also a Behind the Wheel Trainer. In 2019, he was on the Santa Ana Rodeo Team.
- Jose Tomayo, equipment parts clerk at the Garden Grove base. Jose's duties include supporting the maintenance mechanics with parts, material, shop supplies and safety equipment. On his own initiative, he improved the pulling and issuing process by reorganizing the Garden Grove inventory and optimizing the parts bin layout.
- Deborah Sanders, senior desktop support technician, specializing in audio-video support and equipment. Deborah has been instrumental in transitioning OCTA's board and committee meetings to a virtual format to help ensure everyone's safety during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. She regularly goes above and beyond by working closely with the Clerk of the Board's office and other staff to ensure a smooth-running meeting.

Board Sets Transportation Vision for 2021

The OCTA board unveiled the 2021 Board and CEO Strategic Initiatives and Action Plan that will guide the agency through the year in continuing to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 public health crisis while remaining fiscally conservative and working to provide a balanced, sustainable transportation system for Orange County.

The Initiatives and Action Plan include:

1. **Reliable, Accessible and Balanced Transportation Choices**
 - Provide Balanced Public Transportation Options and Solutions
 - Deliver Improvements to Fulfill Measure M Promises
 - Engage with Diverse and Disadvantaged Communities
2. **Financial Stewardship, Sustainability and Resilience**
 - Champion Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability
 - Plan and Adapt to a Changing Environment

- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility and effective Measure M2 administration

3. **Organizational Excellence and Collaboration**

- Enhance Workforce Diversity and Inclusive Work Culture
- Adapt to a Changing Workplace, Promote Employee Development and Safety
- Provide Quality Customer Service and Collaborate with Regional Partners

OCTA Purchases Charging Stations for Light-Duty Vehicles

The OCTA board approved the purchase of 72 electric vehicle charging stations from ChargePoint, Inc. to support its new fleet of light-duty vehicles.

OCTA currently owns and operates a fleet of light-duty vehicles that supports its bus operations, transit police services and other needs.

Fifty-five of those vehicles are primarily used to transport coach operators on duty in the field. Those vehicles are in the process of being replaced by battery-electric cars, another important step in OCTA's ongoing effort to convert its fleet to producing zero emissions.

The new charging stations will charge the vehicles daily and will allow staff to monitor and adjust energy usage and view real-time charging status for each vehicle.

Community Transit Program Requirements Revised Due to Pandemic

The OCTA board changed the minimum performance standards for its community shuttle program to accommodate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on ridership.

The program provides funding to cities to operate shuttles, trolleys and special event transportation. The funding comes from Project V, a competitive program under Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

The change now requires existing shuttle services to not exceed a maximum cost per boarding. Previously, the program required the services to meet a minimum ridership requirement.

Because of California's stay-at-home order and social distancing requirements, only three Project V services remain operational. The other 23 services are either suspended or not initiated due to the pandemic. Most services will not be reinstated until social distancing requirements are lifted.