

Meeting of Nov. 14, 2022

OCTA Awards \$3.1 Million to Improve Water Quality

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors awarded \$3.1 million to improve water quality throughout the county.

The funds come from Measure M, the half-cent sales tax renewed by Orange County voters in 2006 for transportation improvements. Measure M, also known as OC Go, includes funding for an environmental cleanup program that awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the county for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation.

The funding will go toward 13 projects in 13 cities aimed at removing litter and debris from roads before they reach waterways and the ocean. The cities receiving funding are Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Orange, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, Stanton and Westminster.

Board Approves Strategies to Improve South O.C. Transportation

The OCTA board approved long-term strategies that will address south Orange County's transportation needs as the area continues to grow with new residents and jobs and as travel patterns evolve.

The strategies, developed as part of the South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study, include:

- Improving roadway infrastructure and operations
- Enhancing high-frequency transit
- Continuing and expanding the local shuttle program
- Implementing mobility hubs
- Expanding OC Flex microtransit service
- Improving connectivity and safety for active transportation
- Enhancing transportation system performance by encouraging off-peak hour trips and promoting transit and active transportation

The locally preferred strategies will be incorporated into OCTA's draft long-range transportation plan that will be available for public review beginning later this fall through early 2023. Once finalized, the long-range plan will serve as OCTA's input into the Southern California Association of Government's 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

For more information on the study, visit octa.net/SouthOCStudy.

OCTA Continues Delivering on Promises with Updated Next 10 Plan

The OCTA board adopted the updated 2022 Measure M Next 10 Delivery Plan, which outlines how improvements to transit, streets and freeways, and protection for the environment will be delivered.

The updated Next 10 Plan incorporates this year's Measure M forecast. The half-cent sales tax is now expected to generate \$15 billion for transportation improvements through 2041, which reflects a \$1.8 billion increase from the 2021 forecast.

Highlights of the plan include:

- Freeway:
 - Deliver 13 freeway projects
 - Continue annual endowment deposits
- Streets and Roads
 - Return 18% of funding to local agencies for transportation needs
 - Provide annual grants to address street bottlenecks and gaps
 - Fund ongoing coordination of 2,200 traffic signals
- Transit
 - Continue operation of Metrolink and fund station improvements
 - Complete OC Streetcar construction and begin operations
 - Offer enhanced mobility options for seniors and persons with disabilities
 - Continue to support local transit circulators
 - Continue to improve the top 100 busiest transit stops
- Environmental
 - Provide ongoing grants for water cleanup projects