

## **Meeting of March 27, 2023**

### **Board Recognizes March Employees of the Month**

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

The honors went to:

- Guillermo Valdovinos, a coach operator at the Santa Ana base who started at OCTA in 2002. He is a model coach operator who consistently provides bus passengers with safe, courteous and reliable service. Guillermo recently achieved 20 years of safe driving in January.
- Joel Rule, a journeyman mechanic who joined OCTA in 1987. Joel is an essential member of his team and currently works the swing shift at the Garden Grove base. He recently helped identify the correct coolant hose replacements for the newly repowered buses, allowing the buses to be repaired and put into operation quickly.
- Eric Carpenter, a senior communications specialist who started at OCTA in 2013. Eric has served as the lead media spokesperson for the coastal rail corridor shutdown and construction effort in San Clemente. He has written multiple press releases and conducted at least 20 interviews, always presenting OCTA in a positive light and maintaining a key focus on the safety of passengers and the public.

### **OCTA Board Advances 405 Express Lanes**

The OCTA board approved the execution of an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., to provide traffic and revenue analysis consulting services for the 405 Express Lanes, which are scheduled to open in late 2023.

The 405 Express Lanes are being built as part of the I-405 Improvement Project that is making improvements to I-405 and surrounding streets between SR-73 and I-605. The project is an essential part of fulfilling the promises made to voters through Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

Once complete, the 405 Express Lanes will use congestion management pricing, designed to ensure that drivers can travel the lanes at free-flow speeds. To accomplish this, OCTA will monitor hourly traffic volumes and adjust tolls to maintain a steady flow of traffic.

Stantec Consulting Services will develop the initial toll rates for each segment of the 405 Express Lanes. In addition, the consultant will work with OCTA for nine months after opening to monitor traffic, toll rates and travel times and identify necessary changes in toll rates or toll policy that may be needed to meet operating goals. The consultant will also look longer-term and develop a forecast of traffic volumes and toll revenues for the first 10 years after the express lanes open.

For more information on the I-405 Improvement Project, visit [www.octa.net/405improvement](http://www.octa.net/405improvement).

## **OCTA Selects Outreach Firm for SR-91 Improvement Project**

OCTA's board approved the selection of Costin Public Outreach Group, Inc. to provide public outreach consulting for the SR-91 Improvement Project between SR-55 and SR-57.

The SR-91 Improvement Project will improve 5.5 miles of SR-91 through Anaheim, Fullerton, Orange, Yorba Linda and Placentia. Improvements include replacing four bridges, constructing a new on-ramp from Lakeview Avenue to SR-55, and adding a new eastbound regular lane. Construction on the project is expected to begin in 2024.

The consultant will develop and implement a comprehensive public outreach program that will engage with residents, business owners, commuters and other stakeholders, including diverse and disadvantaged communities. The program will focus on helping the public understand the project's benefits as well as communicate construction updates.

For more information on the project, visit [octa.net/ABetter91](https://octa.net/ABetter91).