

## **Meeting of April 24, 2017**

### **April Employees of the Month Honored**

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

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Lorenzo Bravo, coach operator
- Johnny Nguyen from maintenance
- Mary Burton from administration

### **OC Fair Express to Return for 2017, 2018 Seasons**

The OC Fair Express service is will return for the 2017 and 2018 fair seasons, thanks in part to an \$834,000 grant provided by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

The OC Fair Express provides fair-goers with quick and convenient rides to the OC Fair. This year, it will provide non-stop service on Saturdays and Sundays from nine locations across Orange County to the fair from July 15 to Aug. 13.

The bus service will cost \$4 round-trip and riders will receive a coupon valid for \$3 admission to the fair – a savings of \$11 off the regular ticket price.

Last year, the service garnered more than 95,000 boardings, a 20 percent increase over the previous year.

### **Bus Service Changes Coming in June**

The OCTA board received a presentation on the June 2017 bus service change program, the second of three regularly-scheduled service revisions for the year.

Routine adjustments will be made to 32 bus routes for operational or on-time performance improvements. The service change will also include a seasonal adjustment to Route 1, which services Pacific Coast Highway, a corridor that experiences heavy traffic during the summer.

In addition, two seasonal services, the OC Fair Express and the Laguna Beach Summer Breeze, are also included in the service change.

The Laguna Beach Summer Breeze will provide a shuttle service from a parking lot located on Laguna Canyon Road, near the intersection of I-405 and SR-133, to key destinations along Laguna Canyon Road, including the Festival of the Arts and Pageant of the Masters, the Sawdust Festival and the beach. The service will operate on Saturdays and Sundays beginning July 1 and ending Sept. 3.

### **Measure M Delivering on Promises to O.C. Voters**

The Measure M Taxpayers Oversight Committee has determined that Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, is being delivered as promised to Orange County voters for the 26th consecutive year.

The committee held its annual Measure M public hearing April 13 and unanimously found that OCTA is proceeding in accordance with the ordinances that were first approved by voters in 1990 and renewed in 2006.

The independent, 11-member oversight committee was formed to monitor OCTA's use of Measure M funding, approve all changes to the Measure M plan and hold annual public hearings on the expenditure of funds generated by the sales-tax measure.

The original Measure M made possible more than \$4 billion worth of transportation improvements to help Orange County residents, workers and visitors travel more efficiently throughout all parts of the county.

Since 1990, hundreds of local projects have been completed that help residents travel more easily, including improvements to freeways, widened streets, synchronized traffic signals and improved intersections. Measure M also made possible Metrolink commuter-rail service in Orange County.

### **Board Receives Paratransit Service Overview**

The OCTA board received an overview of the agency's paratransit services, highlighting the cost- and service-related challenges that exist.

For more than a year, OCTA has been working to reinvent its transit system to better match the service with demand, along with making it more efficient, convenient and financially sustainable for the long term.

As these efforts continue and OCTA makes changes to the system, it is taking into consideration the paratransit services it provides for the county's seniors and people with disabilities.

Demand for paratransit and the associated costs have climbed and consumed more of the transit operating budget in recent years. Currently, OCTA's paratransit services consume nearly 25 percent of the total transit operating budget and carry about 3 percent of the trips.

Moving forward, OCTA will continue to explore ridership and cost growth factors, as well as lower-cost service options that meet requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Recommendations on ways to more effectively and efficiently deliver paratransit services are expected to be presented to the board in six months.