

Meeting of May 23, 2016

Employees of the month for May honored

The Orange County Transportation Authority board honored three employees of the month for May.

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Ioan Torok, coach operator
- Tuan Nguyen from maintenance
- Timothy Beseau from administration

Torok was hired as a coach operator for OCTA in 2002 and has achieved 12 years of safe driving. Torok works out of the Santa Ana bus base and enjoys interacting with the public.

Nguyen joined OCTA in 2008 as a facility technician and is currently working out of the Santa Ana base. Nguyen has done a great job ensuring that OCTA's facilities and building systems are kept in a high state of readiness and are reliable.

Beseau is a maintenance planner within OCTA's maintenance department. Beseau is currently the leading a project where he has developed suggestions that have the potential to save OCTA more than \$600,000 a year in parts and labor.

Orange County Fair Express Service returns in July

The board approved the use of a \$694,645 grant to fund the Orange County Fair Express, which will run from July 15 through Aug. 14.

Last season, the special bus service recorded 79,000 boardings. The grant is funded by the state's Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

This non-stop bus service will run Fridays from noon to 1 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. There are nine stops throughout Orange County.

Service will run every 20 to 40 minutes from Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Orange, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana and two locations in Anaheim.

The OC Fair Express costs \$2 each way and riders will receive a coupon valid for \$3 fair admission – a savings of \$9 off the regular ticket price.

For more information, visit octa.net/ocfairexpress.

Mobile ticketing closer to getting onboard

The board approved the use of a \$1.5 million grant to purchase mobile ticket readers for installation on the fixed-route bus fleet.

Coupled with the development of a mobile ticketing smartphone application, the new fare collection system will allow customers to purchase bus passes through their mobile devices and use a digital pass to board the bus. The app will also allow users to conveniently access route maps and schedules, along with real-time bus location information.

The readers are expected to be fully installed and ready for use early next year. The grant is funded by the state's Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

Orange transit center parking structure moves forward with cooperative agreement

The board approved a cooperative agreement with the city of Orange to specify the roles, responsibilities and funding for the construction of a parking structure at the Orange Transportation Center.

The \$33 million project, located at Lemon Street and Maple Avenue, is planned to include 611 parking spots, of which 500 will be used for transit use. The remaining 111 spots will be for the city's general use.

The city has requested that OCTA assume the lead role in the construction phase of the project. Orange led the design and environmental phase of the project.

Initial I-405 toll policy and preliminary finance plan approved

The board approved an initial toll policy and preliminary finance plan for the toll lanes portion of the Interstate 405 Improvement Project.

For the first 3 ½ years of operation, solo drivers will pay a toll at all times, carpools of two people will not pay tolls during non-peak hours but will pay tolls during peak hours, and at all times, carpool of three or more people will not pay tolls. Following that initial period, two-person carpools will pay tolls all day. Carpools of at least three people will continue to not pay tolls.

The \$1.9 billion I-405 Improvement Project will improve commute times on the San Diego Freeway from the SR-73 to the I-605, an area traveled by more than 370,000 vehicles a day, making it the busiest stretch of highway in the nation.

The project, set to begin construction in 2017, includes adding one regular general-purpose lane in each direction – as promised in Measure M – and building express toll lanes.

For more project information, visit: www.octa.net/405improvement