

## **Meeting of July 11, 2022**

### **OCTA Makes Progress on 2022 Initiatives and Action Plan**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors received an update highlighting the agency's progress on the 2022 Board and CEO Initiatives and Action Plan for the first half of the year.

The initiatives and action plan, approved by the board in January, include 96 milestones to be accomplished throughout the year. In the first six months of 2022, 28 of the milestones have been completed.

Highlights include:

- OCTA made the Youth Ride Free pass permanent, becoming the first large transit agency in the region to offer free bus rides to all youth under 18 on an ongoing basis
- The first half of the Brookhurst Street bridge and the entire Fairview Road bridge were completed and opened to traffic as part of the I-405 Improvement Project, which is improving a 16-mile stretch of the freeway between Costa Mesa and the Orange County border with Los Angeles County
- \$26.4 million of Measure M funding was awarded to cities throughout Orange County for projects that will help ease traffic by making improvements to streets and the timing of traffic lights
- The OCTA board approved a \$1.65 billion balanced budget for fiscal year 2022-23, making significant investments in public transit and improvements to Orange County's freeways and streets to keep the county moving safely and efficiently
- OCTA's college pass program was expanded to Coastline College, allowing enrolled students to ride OC Bus for free

### **New Members Selected for Taxpayer Oversight Committee**

Four new members were selected to be part of the Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee.

The 11-member Taxpayer Oversight Committee was formed to monitor OCTA's use of Measure M funding, approve all changes to the investment plan and hold annual public hearings on whether OCTA has been proceeding in accordance with the plan.

Measure M is Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation that was renewed by 70% of voters in 2006. The funding provides for balanced and sustainable transportation improvements, with 43% of funding dedicated to freeways, 32% to streets and 25% to transit. The plan also includes two environmental programs.

The new committee members are:

- Naresh Patel from La Palma, representing Orange County's First District
- Kirk Watilo from North Tustin, representing the Third District
- Rasik Patel from Fullerton, representing the Fourth District
- Mark Eisenberg of Newport Coast, representing the Fifth District

For more information about Measure M or the Taxpayer Oversight Committee, visit [octa.net/TOC](https://octa.net/TOC).

### **OCTA Planning for O.C.'s Transportation Future**

The OCTA board received an update on the development of the agency's Long-Range Transportation Plan, which is creating a vision for Orange County's transportation system through 2045 while accommodating expected growth in population, housing and employment.

OCTA updates its plan every four years to help meet the county's evolving transportation needs for the next 20 years and beyond. Once completed, OCTA's long-range plan will serve as input to the regional plan developed by the Southern California Association of Governments.

In developing the long-range plan, several scenarios were analyzed. This included looking at what would happen if no transportation investments were made in the next 20 years and the potential impacts once Measure M sunsets. If Measure M sunsets in 2041 and no additional funding sources are identified, various transportation programs would be affected, including Metrolink rail service, local street funding, freeway service patrol and community shuttle services.

Through analysis and input from the public, a set of goals were developed to guide the types of transportation strategies that will be considered as part of the long-range plan. These include renewing or revamping Measure M programs, expanding transit services, enhancing active transportation, eliminating select freeway chokepoints and embracing new technologies.

Strategies to support these goals will be developed and included in the draft long-range plan, which is expected to be available for public review in the fall.

For more information on the Long-Range Transportation Plan, visit [octa.net/LRTP](https://octa.net/LRTP).