

Meeting of Aug. 8, 2022

OCTA's Student Bus Pass Program Expands to All O.C. Community Colleges

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized and presented resolutions of appreciation to representatives of all nine Orange County community colleges now participating in the Community College Pass program.

OCTA's Community College Pass program allows students to ride OC Bus for free. The program is a shared-cost program, partially funded by the colleges and by Clean Transportation Funding from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction and Review Committee and the state's Low Carbon Transit Operations Program through California Climate Investments.

The participating colleges include Santa Ana, Santiago Canyon, Fullerton, Golden West, Cypress, Coastline, Saddleback, Irvine Valley and Orange Coast colleges.

Since the program's launch at Santa Ana College in 2017, 3.8 million rides have been recorded with the Community College Pass. The pass has helped introduce new riders to public transit and remove barriers to higher education for students, some who say wouldn't be able to attend college without it.

For more information, visit ocbus.com/CommunityCollegePass.

Board Issues \$45 Million Call for Projects to Help Ease Congestion in Orange County

The OCTA board issued its annual call for projects aimed at improving traffic flow and reducing congestion throughout Orange County.

Approximately \$45 million is available through the Regional Capacity Program, which funds intersection improvements and other projects to help reduce congestion, and the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program, which provides funding to time traffic lights along long stretches of street that can ar multiple cities throughout the county.

Cities and the county can propose projects through both competitive programs, which are funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

Project applications are due by Oct. 20 and are expected to be considered by the board in the spring.

I-405 Improvement Project Now 80% Complete

The OCTA board received a quarterly update on the status 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.

The project is adding a regular lane in each direction of the freeway, as well as a second lane in each direction that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes. In addition, 18 bridges that span the freeway are being reconstructed, and improvements are being made to interchanges and freeway on- and off-ramps.

Currently, the project is more than 80% complete, with nine of the 18 bridge replacements complete and open to traffic. All 58 on- and off-ramps are on schedule to be completed by the end of this year.

Additional project status updates include:

- Approximately 90% of walls are complete
- Approximately 80% of ramps are complete
- Approximately 70% of paving is complete

For more information, visit octa.net/405improvement.