

Meeting of March 13, 2023

Board Receives 91 Express Lanes Update

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors received a quarterly update on the 91 Express Lanes, showing that traffic volumes have declined slightly in recent months due to increased gas prices and rising inflation.

Highlights of the report include:

- 19.4 million trips were taken on the 91 Express Lanes in 2022, a 4.5% increase over 2021.
- Traffic volume on the 91 Express Lanes in December 2022 saw a daily average of more than 50,000, a 4.3% decline from December 2021.
- Over the past 12 months, the number of 91 Express Lanes accounts increased by approximately 5,816 and nearly 35,530 transponders were distributed.
- As of December 2022, tolls rates ranged from \$1.80 to \$8.60

OCTA has owned and operated 10 miles of the 91 Express Lanes between SR-55 in Anaheim and the border with Riverside County since 2003.

For more information, visit [91ExpressLanes.com](https://www.91ExpressLanes.com)

OCTA Begins Procurement Process for South Coast Rail Study

The OCTA board took an important step toward finding solutions to protect the vital coastal rail line through south Orange County by approving the release of a request for proposals to retain a consultant to study the issues threatening track stability and guide future planning efforts to find effective solutions.

The South Coast Rail Infrastructure Feasibility Study and Alternatives Concepts Analysis is expected to take approximately two years. The study will assess existing and future risks and identify challenges to the maintenance and operations of rail service along the coastal rail line through south Orange County.

The study will involve key stakeholders and technical experts. Collaboration with local, state and federal partners will be more firmly established throughout this planning process. The study is estimated to cost \$2 million, with grant funding already identified. It will provide the framework for future efforts to mitigate the risk to track stability.

This study is the first step of a phased approach to examine short- to medium-term solutions that would protect the existing rail line. A separate second-phase study would look at longer-term options including potential relocation of the rail line.

Board Selects Firms for Freeway Services Patrol Services

OCTA's board approved the execution of agreements for firms providing Freeway Service Patrol services to keep Orange County's freeways flowing safely.

OCTA contracts with private tow companies to provide Freeway Service Patrol services that include changing flat tires, providing a gallon of gas and jumping a dead battery free of charge to drivers.

Through these contracts, the tow companies provide all tow trucks, personnel, uniforms, equipment and fuel for assisting drivers.

The approved firms include California Coach, Finish Line Towing and Transport and Orange County Motor Club. The agreements will run from Dec. 2, 2023, through Dec. 1, 2029.