

Meeting of December 11, 2023

OCTA Recognizes Outgoing Board Members

Four outgoing Orange County Transportation Authority board members received resolutions of appreciation for their service keeping Orange County moving.

- Director **Jose Diaz**, an Anaheim city councilmember, has served on OCTA's board since 2022. Throughout his time on the board, Director Diaz served as a member of the legislative and communications committee and played a strong role in the advancement of Measure M programs and projects. He helped in the effort to restart OCTA's Teen Council, and provided valuable oversight during OCTA's triennial review. Director Diaz also advanced Orange County's interests regionally, supporting improvements to I-5, SR-55 and SR-91.
- Director **Brian Goodell**, also the mayor of Mission Viejo, has served on OCTA's board since 2022. During his time with OCTA, Director Goodell took on leadership roles, including serving as chairman of the environmental oversight committee, serving on the legislative and communications committee, as well as the vice chairman of the finance and administration committee. He demonstrated support to Orange County's youth and college students by helping to expand the Youth Ride Free and College Pass programs, assisting thousands of students in the process. Additionally, Director Goodell helped steer OCTA through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that projects progressed, and the agency remained financially secure.
- Director **Steve Jones**, also the mayor of Garden Grove, has served on OCTA's board since 2013. During his tenure, Director Jones has taken on key leadership roles, including serving as chairman of the board, and on the executive and transit committees, as well as vice chair of the finance and administration committee. He has provided strong leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic, serving as chairman of the board during that difficult time, ensuring projects progressed and the agency remained financially secure, all while focusing on the health and well-being of the public and OCTA staff. Through his support, OCTA was able to implement and expand the College Pass and Youth Ride Free programs to improve access to educational opportunities for students. Director Jones has been a champion of environmental sustainability, helping debut the largest transit-operated hydrogen fueling station in the nation. He has also been instrumental in helping develop the OC Streetcar project in Santa Ana and his home city of Garden Grove.
- Director **Jessie Lopez**, also the mayor pro tem of Santa Ana, has served on OCTA's board since 2022. During her time on the board, she served as a member of the transit committee, advancing Measure M projects and programs, and enhancing the way people move, whether by bus, car, bicycle or walking in her city of Santa Ana and beyond. Director Lopez played a leadership role in advancing the OC Streetcar project in Santa Ana and Garden Grove and helped develop advanced alternatives to how Orange County moves, keeping active transportation and the health of the community at the forefront of her decisions. With her support and that of the entire board, OCTA was able to bring improvements to local streets and roads, local transit and to our environment through multiple Measure M programs.

Board Honors December Employees of the Month

The OCTA board recognized three employees of the month for December.

The honors went to:

- Graden Alegre, a coach operator at the Garden Grove base who started at OCTA in 2001. He is a model coach operator who achieved an amazing 22 years of safe driving in March. Graden is recognized for always providing safe, courteous and reliable bus service to passengers.
- Phillip Nguyen, an electronic technician who joined OCTA in 2015 as an apprentice mechanic and is currently working in the maintenance shop at the Santa Ana base. He has an extensive electrical background and was quickly promoted to his current role of electronic technician. Phillip is outstanding at troubleshooting OCTA's fare collection system and the newer radio system and is the go-to person for more complex electronic issues.
- Jeff Mills, a senior program manager in capital programs who joined OCTA in 2014. He is recognized for his critical role as the I-405 Improvement Project manager. The project is the largest ever undertaken by OCTA and Jeff's exemplary leadership is a major reason OCTA finished the project on time.

OCTA Continues to Deliver on Measure M Projects

The OCTA board received a quarterly progress report on Measure M projects and programs.

Highlights include:

- All lanes on the I-405 Improvement Project opened to traffic on December 1.
- \$45 million was made available to improve traffic throughout Orange County through the 2024 annual call for projects through the Measure M Regional Capacity and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization programs.
- Metrolink ridership levels increased by approximately 9% when compared to the same quarter last year.
- Nearly 60 million gallons of trash have been captured since the inception of the Measure M Environmental Cleanup Program.
- OCTA acquired more than 1,300 acres and funded 12 projects to restore habitat on 350 acres of open space across Orange County as part of the Environmental Mitigation Program.