

## **Meeting of Jan. 9, 2017**

### **New OCTA Board Chair and Vice Chair Selected**

The board unanimously selected Vice Chairman Michael Hennessey to serve as chair of the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors for 2017.

Hennessey served as the OCTA board's vice chair for the last year. He replaces outgoing Chairwoman Lori Donchak, a San Clemente City Councilwoman, who remains on the board.

Hennessey is the principal of his own real-estate development and consulting firm, Hennessey Group, and has served on the OCTA board as a public member since 2011. He has more than 20 years of experience in the Southern California real estate industry, working in housing and development for redevelopment agencies as well as commercial and residential companies. His extensive real estate experience includes the areas of development, real property acquisition and, community outreach.

Replacing Hennessey as vice chair is Lisa Bartlett, who is the Fifth District Supervisor for the County of Orange. She joined the OCTA board in December 2014.

### **OCTA's Newest Board Members Take Oath of Office**

Four new members joined the board: Laguna Niguel Mayor Laurie Davies, representing the county's 5<sup>th</sup> District; Huntington Beach Councilmember Barbara Delgleize, representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Orange Mayor Pro Tem Mark Murphy, representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> District; and Los Alamitos Mayor Richard Murphy, representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

The new board members replace outgoing directors Jim Katapodis, Jeff Lalloway, Gary Miller and Frank Ury.

### **Year-end Report Summarizes 2016 Accomplishments**

2016 was a remarkable year for the Orange County Transportation Authority, marking the agency's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary delivering transportation improvements across the county. CEO Darrell Johnson presented the board with a video slideshow to review a wide range of accomplishments in the past year based on the 2016 board initiatives.

Those accomplishments included:

- Enhancing efficiency throughout public transit. OCTA made major changes to the county's bus system this year by reallocating resources to the most heavily used areas, modifying bus routes, and decreasing the day pass fares to encourage ridership. OCTA also launched Bravo! Route 560 and 64 Xpress bus services to provide faster service along heavily-traveled corridors. Measure M funds were allocated to alternative transit options in where bus service with low ridership was eliminated.

- Making major progress on the county's first modern streetcar project. The OC Streetcar project was included in the President's budget, signaling strong federal support. Cooperative agreements were obtained with the cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove for building and operating the system. A firm was selected for the construction management of the project, and the board approved seeking proposals for manufacturing and delivery of the streetcar vehicles.
- Delivering important capital projects. Freeway improvements helped ease congestion and increase mobility, with the completion of an additional lane on the westbound SR-91, and the repaving of the 91 Express Lanes, paid for entirely with revenue from those who use them. OCTA also is set to improve the most heavily traveled freeway in the nation, the I-405, awarding a \$1.2 billion contract for the design and construction of the improvements.
- Improving street, road and pedestrian safety conditions. More than \$50 million was awarded to help improve some of the county's busiest streets and intersections. 10 signal synchronization projects, including 261 signalized intersections, were completed in order to keep traffic moving efficiently. Work also continued on the OC Bridges projects, as well enhancements in pedestrian safety through audible train warning systems.
- Pursuing innovative sustainability initiatives. In close cooperation with state and federal Fish and Wildlife agencies, and the environmental community, OCTA approved environmental documents that will help permanently preserve more than 1,300 acres of natural land and the important animal and plant species that live there.

### **Active Transportation Projects Receive Funding**

The board approved a final prioritized list of funding for projects that support bicycle and pedestrian mobility throughout Orange County.

Through the process, the OCTA utilized previously approved guidelines to assign points to 17 projects planned to improve bicycle and pedestrian paths and provide safe routes to schools.

The Active Transportation Plan was approved at the state level in 2013 to provide federal and state funds for projects that support mobility for bicycles and pedestrians.

In December 2016, the California Transportation Commission approved \$158 million for 54 statewide Active Transportation Projects, including one from Santa Ana. In all, about \$8.9 million is available for Orange County projects. Based on the rankings, the Southern California Association of Governments is expected to fully fund Orange County's two highest ranking active transportation projects, each in Santa Ana, at West Willis Street and near Davis Elementary School. The funds are scheduled to be used in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21.