

## **Meeting of Dec. 11, 2017**

### **December Employees of the Month Honored**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for October.

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Michelle Peoples, Coach Operator
- Quy Nguyen, Maintenance
- Angela Sun, Administration

### **Quarterly Report Given on Measure M2 Projects**

The quarterly progress report was given on Measure M2 from July 2017 to September 2017. The progress reports are to ensure not only Measure M projects are being completed but also at the high standards of quality, accountability and transparency as called for in the measure that was renewed in 2006 by voters. The quarterly reports are available online for the public to view.

Some of the accomplishments include:

- Construction was completed on I-5 between Avenida Vista Hermosa to Pacific Coast Highway in July.
- Right-of-way maps for the I-5 project between SR 73 to Oso Parkway were approved by Caltrans and work to begin has been granted.
- The final environmental document and project report on SR-55 between I-405 and I-5 were approved and signed.
- A consultant for the design of the SR-55 between I-405 and I-5 was selected.
- The notice to proceed No.2 for the I-405 Improvement Project was granted after the approval of the TIFIA loan in July.
- The 2018 call for projects was released, providing approximately \$32 million in eligible funds through the regional capacity program for road improvements and \$8 million for the regional traffic signal synchronization program.
- In August a consultant was selected to finish the plans and estimates for the Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station.
- The Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Station accessibility improvement project was completed in September.
- The Orange Metrolink Parking Structure began construction.
- A total of 16 projects were selected for funding as a part of the 2017 Tier 1 environmental cleanup program totaling \$3.1 million. Since 2011, a total of 154 projects, totaling \$20 million has been awarded.
- Five of the seven Environmental Mitigation Program Preserve resource management plans have been completed.

## **Interstate 405 Improvement Project Continues Moving Forward**

An update was given on the I-405 Improvement project between State Route 73 and Interstate 605. The design phase of the \$1.9 billion project is progressing and the final baseline schedule will be approved by early next year with construction starting after the Jan. 26 groundbreaking event. The project will add one general-purpose lane from Euclid Street to I-605, as part of Measure M2. There will also be an additional lane added in each direction to combine with the existing carpool lane to provide dual express lanes in each direction of the corridor from SR-73 to I-605. Some updates include:

- The right-of-way acquisition program is on schedule to partially acquire 305 properties along the construction right of way. The partial acquisitions are needed to install soundwalls, retaining walls, drainage systems, electrical, telecommunication, water, sewer and gas facilities. Half of the agreements have been reached so far.
- The Ellis Avenue/Euclid Street Interchange ramp has been redesigned to eliminate property impacts to the Orange County Sanitation District in Fountain Valley. OCTA is updating the Fountain Valley City Council on the project at its Dec. 19 meeting.
- A contract for the toll lane system integrator is expected to be awarded in February. The RFP was released on Aug. 28. The toll lanes system integrator will work closely with the design-builder to deliver fully functional express lanes by 2023.

In the New Year, there will be open houses for cities surrounding the project, on top of the 22 events and 47 project briefings held this year. The update also included the information regarding the collaboration with the Waze navigation app, OCTA's project maps and road closures will go directly into the app to let users know the latest construction updates.

## **OCTA Board Requests TCA Defer 241/91 Express Lanes Toll Connector Project**

The OCTA board voted to request that the Transportation Corridor Agencies defer all work on the planned SR-241/91 Express Lanes tolled connector, citing concerns about how the project could impact traffic conditions on the SR-91 corridor without additional capacity improvements.

Technical studies related to the proposed connector indicate that at this time, the project could increase traffic congestion on SR-91, both in the 91 Express Lanes and in the general-purpose lanes.

The board also directed OCTA staff to continue working with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and Caltrans to come up with long-term solutions for traffic congestion relief in the corridor.