

Board Receives CEO's 1st Quarter Initiatives Update

The Orange County Transportation Authority board received a first quarter report of CEO Darrell Johnson's initiatives and action plan.

The action plan consists of 10 initiatives, implemented through 59 projects and programs and monitored through 89 milestones for the year.

In the first quarter, 10 of the milestones were completed.

Accomplishments include:

- The Federal Transit Administration's approval of the OC Streetcar Project to enter the engineering phase.
- The launch of the new 53Xpress limited-stop bus service.
- The full implementation of the employee pension reform plan and the launch of the third Leadership Development Academy.

Caltrans Provides Update on I-5/El Toro Road Project

The OCTA board received an update on the I-5/El Toro Road Interchange Improvement Project, which is ready to enter the environmental phase.

The project, developed in partnership with Caltrans, is planned to improve the existing I-5/El Toro Road interchange in the cities of Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods and Lake Forest.

The interchange currently experiences high volumes of traffic during the morning and afternoon rush hours. The project will improve this traffic flow, along with accommodating an increase in regional traffic and improving access to and from the freeway.

Work on the project environmental document, which will be done by Caltrans, is planned to start this month and be completed by November 2019.

Workshop Details Proposed 2017-18 Budget

The OCTA board got a look at the proposed \$1.3 billion OCTA budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year during a workshop following the board meeting.

The balanced budget is in accordance with the OCTA chair and CEO goals and incorporates the impacts of SB 1, the recently approved state transportation funding package.

A major initiative within the proposed budget includes Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. The budget is consistent with the Next 10 delivery plan adopted by the board in November 2016, allocating:

- \$170 million for freeway programs
- \$157 million for streets and roads
- \$92 million for transit

In addition, major capital projects advanced through the budget include the OC Streetcar project and the I-405 Improvement Project.

Another main initiative includes the ongoing OC Bus 360° program, which aims to improve bus service and increase the efficiency of bus travel throughout the county. No changes in the amount of fixed-route service provided or fare increases are expected. However, an increase in paratransit service is expected because of an anticipated growth in demand.

A public hearing is scheduled to be held prior to board approval of the budget in June.