



Citizens Advisory Committee
550 S. Main Street, Orange CA, Room 07
January 16, 2024 | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- 1. Chairman’s Remarks** Karalee Darnell, *Chair, CAC*
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance** Karalee Darnell, *Chair, CAC*
- 3. Approval of October Minutes / Attendance Report**
Action Item
- 4. Transit Vision Survey Results**
(10 min) Presentation Charles Main, *Planning*
Marissa Espino, *Public Outreach*
- 5. Coastal Rail Resiliency Study**
(10 min) Presentation Dan Phu, *Planning*
Christina Byrne, *Public Outreach*
- 6. I-5 South Improvement Project**
(10 min) Presentation Logan Selleck, *Public Outreach*
- 7. M2 Next 10 Delivery Plan**
(10 min) Presentation Francesca Ching, *Measure M Program Manager*
- 8. Update Reports**
(5 min) Presentation
 - Government Affairs Clara Brotcke, *Government Relations*
 - Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee Paul Adams, *Chair, Bike/Ped Subcommittee*
 - Marketing Amelia Hsu, *Marketing*
 - Staff Liaison Christina Byrne, *Public Outreach*
- 9. Public Comments**
- 10. Committee Member Comments**
- 11. Adjournment / Next Meeting:**
April 16, 2024

Agenda Descriptions

The agenda descriptions are intended to give notice to members of the public of a general summary of items of business to be transacted or discussed. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should contact the OCTA at (714) 560 5611, no less than two (2) business days prior to this meeting to enable OCTA to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

*Public Comments: At this time, members of the public may address the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the CAC, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person, unless different time limits are set by the Chairman, subject to the approval of the CAC.



**Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
October 17, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
550 S. Main Street, Orange, CA**

Members Present

Alex Rounaghi, *Laguna Beach Resident*
Brendon Moeller, *Orange Resident*
Carah Reed, *Santa Ana Resident*
Damon Tordini, *Engineers w/o Borders/ Santa Ana*
Dan Kalmick, *Huntington Beach City Council*
David Wheeler, *Laguna Hills City Council*
Frank Murphy, *Orange Resident*
Jamie Valencia, *City of Fullerton - INRAC*
Jeff Thompson, *Building Industry*
Jim Cunneen, *Fountain Valley City Council*

John Kinney, *Laguna Niguel Resident*
Karalee Darnell, *Yorba Linda Resident*
Kristen Jasko, *Cal State Fullerton*
Laurel Reimer, *American Planning Assoc.:Orange*
Linda Nguyen, *Garden Grove Resident*
Marc Vukceovich, *Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets*
Paul Adams, *Santa Ana Resident*
Reza Hosseini, *Irvine Resident*
Roy Shahbazian, *California Community Colleges*
Tyler Holst, *Civil Engineer*

Members Absent

Amelia Castro, *Anaheim Housing & Comm. Dev Comsn.*
Daniel Soper, *Cal State Fullerton*
Deepak Krishan, *Irvine Resident*
Kunal Mittal, *Civil Engineer*
Lisandro Orozco, *Historic Santa Ana*
Mark Paredes, *Garden Grove Resident*

Martin Varona, *Orange Resident*
Mary Ann Remnet, *Rossmoor Resident*
Nick Polichetti, *Placentia Resident*
Samara Ali-Ahmad, *Newport Beach Resident*
Steve Kozak, *Tustin Planning Commission*
Randy Styner, *Garden Grove Resident*

1. Chairman's Remarks

Karalee Darnell, Chair, called the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Karalee Darnell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Approval of April Minutes/Attendance Report

A motion was made by Marc Vukceвич and seconded by Damon Tordini to approve the July 18, 2023, CAC Minutes/Attendance Report.

4. OC Transit Vision

Charles Main, Planning, presented an overview of the OC Transit Vision plan and Marissa Espino, Public Outreach presented an overview of the outreach efforts. Committee Members were asked for feedback on the following questions from the presentation:

- What does OCTA do well as it relates to transit service?
- How can transit be improved in Orange County to provide the things you want most from transit?
- What are the opportunities to improve access and connections to transit?

Committee Member Comments:

A committee member asked how is the ridership recovery post-Covid? Charles Main responded they are trying to establish and study what is considered a short-term versus a long-term trend. For OC Bus they have seen a majority of ridership return but are still under pre-Covid ridership. The longer distance travel on Metrolink and demand for longer bus service regionally has not returned and is a point of the study.

A committee member asked if bus service was impacted. Charles Main responded service was temporarily reduced during the pandemic and it has been brought back. The Making Better Connections study did reallocate some resources in areas that were less productive.

A committee member commented that something OCTA does well is the same branding on everything, it reduces confusion and would like to see more Metrolink service.

A committee member commented that the buses are generally clean and well maintained, and the customers and coach operators create a courteous environment on the buses.

A committee member commented that the bus passes for the students have made a huge impact for accessibility, and the phone plug-ins.

A committee member commented that OCTA and iShuttle combined together provide a very good service. The issue is first- and last-mile connections. Charles Main asked what would be beneficial to the committee member. The committee member responded e-bikes or some other form of first- and last-mile service. A committee member asked about the completion date of the OC Streetcar and is there a plan to expand to ARTIC (Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal

Center). Charles Main responded the scheduled completion date is August 2025 and at this time there is not a plan to expand but it could be considered in the OCTA Transit Vision.

A committee member suggested improving service and frequency of service; adding more bus rapid transit and bus lanes; as well as connecting the timelines of the buses with the departures of the train lines.

A committee member commented OCTA did very well before the pandemic with special service such as the OC Fair Express to get people out of their cars and would like to see more of that.

A committee member commented that they would like to see the John Wayne airport connect to rail. Charles Main commented that they had heard feedback on improved connections to the airport and that would be included in their considerations.

A committee member commented that it feels like the bus routes are set up so you can get to almost anywhere you need to when transit dependent, but the number one reason people aren't riding the bus is they are afraid of transfers. Is there anything we can do to add more routes that don't require transfers?

A committee member commented on the question of how transit can be improved. They noticed that in Costa Mesa, Irvine and parts of Santa Ana there is no transit access to the beach in Newport. The siding project to increase Metrolink and Amtrack service are answers to the question.

A committee member commented frequency and geographic span of service are important; BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) or Bravo Lines that tie into Metrolink stations and go across the county on a major corridor is an opportunity to maintain the underlying local service to those corridors.

5. OC Transportation Demand Management Plan

Kristin Tso, Planning, provided an update on the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan and Marissa Espino, Public Outreach, provided an overview of the public engagement efforts.

Committee Member Comments:

A committee member asked if there are ways as the plan is developed of getting more input, partnership, and buy-in from the cities? Kristin Tso responded yes, cities are involved in the stakeholder working groups and have provided input during the workshops.

A committee member asked how to raise the participation level of the cities.

Kristin Tso responded that the plan is meant to be a resource for the local agencies. There is a national and regional policy shift away from drive-alone trips and the intention is for this plan to be a tool for the cities, local agencies or even Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) to utilize as a mitigation measure for the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Transportation Impacts SB743, VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) mitigation and capital projects.

A committee member commented that this seems like strategies for other agencies, and asked what the strategies or recommendations are for OCTA. Where are the internal strategies to empower local cities to reduce VMT? Costa Mesa and the City of Santa Ana have both had challenges to make changes to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways. Kristin Tso responded she was not familiar with the instances mentioned, and TDM is meant for both OCTA and local agencies to approach TDM solutions on a county wide level. Charlie Larwood, Manager of Transportation Planning commented OCTA is still working with the City of Costa Mesa and the City of Newport Beach. A study is planned to look at the traffic implications as land use has changed. OCTA works with cities to change the Master Plan of Arterial Highways. It is city authority that enables them to change the circulation element in the general plan.

A committee member commented about the replacement of the gas tax with a mileage-based fee and since OCTA does not have the authority to do that, is this getting public opinion to form a policy document? Kristin Tso responded yes, to get a feel within our counties on the policies.

6. I-405 Improvement Project

Chris Boucly, Public Outreach, presented the update.

Committee Member Comments:

A committee member asked is there a place on the website for comments or suggestions regarding the 405? Chris Boucly responded 405project@octa.net.

A committee member commented that the concerns about lane stripping near the Warner Bridge were fixed and has improved the intersection experience.

A committee member asked about the water build up on the sides of the freeway after it rains. Chris Boucly responded that drainage and landscaping is part of the punch-list underway now.

A committee member commented that heading northbound over Newland there is no sidewalk at the end of the bridge that connects Edinger. Chris Boucly responded that is a special circumstance and there are signs saying sidewalk closed because of a county flood channel. That was the existing condition and there was no desire to change that.

7. Update on Diversity Outreach and Inclusion Efforts

Elia Verduzco, Diversity Outreach presented the update.

Committee Member Comments:

A committee member asked if they could participate in the Irvine Global Village Festival. Elia Verduzco asked for more information.

A committee member asked if they do any events for the Veteran's Community. Elia Verduzco responded they partner with the Veteran's Business Community and requested more information.

8. Active Transportation Update

Charlie Larwood, Manager of Transportation Planning, introduced Zully Villegas, Active Transportation, who presented the update.

Committee Member Comments:

A committee member asked about the OC Grant mentioned in the OC Connect project. Zully Villegas responded for the OC Connect, they received an Active Transportation Program Grant. It was a Federal grant of three million for two years. A committee member asked if there was an active effort to reach out to school districts on e-bikes. Zully Villegas responded yes, they have reached out to stakeholders and local school districts. OCTA has been very proactive with schools, doing public outreach and school assemblies for e-bike safety.

A committee member asked about the distinctions between e-bikes. Zully Villegas responded e-bikes are continually being modified and they are distinguished according to how fast they can go, Class 1-3. Class 1 being the lowest mileage per hour.

A committee member asked what is the cut-off required for requiring a driver's license. Zully Villegas responded California does not require a driver license for e-bikes but does require you to be over sixteen to drive a class 3. California regulates e-bikes as regular bicycles.

9. Update Reports

Government Affairs – Alexis Leicht, Government Relations, provided the update.

Committee Member Comments:

There were no comments.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee – Paul Adams, Vice Chair, Bike/Ped Subcommittee provided the update. The next meeting will be March 19, 2024.

Committee Member Comments

There were no comments.

Marketing – Amelia Hsu, Marketing, provided the update.

Committee Member Comments:

There were no comments.

Staff Liaison – Christina Byrne, Public Outreach, commented that committee recruitment begins in January for members termed out or leaving. All members should have received an invitation for the 405 Dedication Event, December 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at IKEA in Costa Mesa.

Committee Member Comments:

There were no comments.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Committee Member Comments

A committee member commented they had asked for an update on LOSSAN and could they get that. Christina Byrne replied that LOSSAN is not under the jurisdiction of this committee.

12. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Chair Karalee Darnell thanked the committee and adjourned the meeting.

The next CAC meeting will be January 16, 2024.

**Citizens Advisory Committee
Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Attendance Record**

● = Present

⊙ = Absent

R = Resigned

MEMBER	7/18/23	10/17/23	1/16/24	4/16/24
Mary Ann Remnet	●	⊙		
Linda Nguyen	●	●		
Jim Cunneen	●	●		
Paul Adams	●	●		
Randy Styner	⊙	⊙		
Mark Paredes	⊙	⊙		
Martin Varona	●	⊙		
Lisandro Orozco	●	⊙		
Brendon Moeller	●	●		
Jeff Thompson	●	●		
Carah Reed	⊙	●		
Damon Tordini	●	●		
Kunal Mittal	●	⊙		
Steve Kozak	●	⊙		
Samara Ali-Ahmad	●	⊙		
Reza Hosseini	●	●		
Karalee Darnell	●	●		
Roy Shahbazian	⊙	●		
Daniel Soper	⊙	⊙		
Nick Polichetti	⊙	⊙		
Jamie Valencia	●	●		
Laurel Reimer	⊙	●		
Amelia Castro	⊙	⊙		
Deepak Krishan	⊙	⊙		
John Kinney	●	●		
Tyler Holst	●	●		
David Wheeler	⊙	●		
Alex Rounaghi	⊙	●		
Marc Vukcevich	●	●		
Frank Murphy	⊙	●		
Kristen Jasko	⊙	●		
Dan Kalmick	●	●		