

Meeting of Dec. 14, 2020

OCTA Bids Farewell to Outgoing Board Members

The Orange County Transportation Authority recognized outgoing board members Director Michelle Steel and Director Richard Murphy for their years of service and commitment to improving Orange County transportation.

Director Murphy, also the mayor of Los Alamitos, served four years as a member of the OCTA Board. He served as Vice Chair on the Finance and Administration Committee, and as a member of the Regional Planning and Highways Committee. Director Murphy's extensive financial background and leadership has helped OCTA navigate a challenging year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He provided strong support for active transportation and the college pass program.

After six years of service on the board, Director Steel, also the Chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, will be moving on after she was elected to represent the state's 48th Congressional District. She also served as chairwoman on the Legislative and Communications Committee, and as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee, the Regional Planning and Highways Committee, the Transit Committee, and the Executive Committee. Director Steel was instrumental in advancing Measure M and distributing more than \$150 million in Measure M funds aimed at increasing mobility in Orange County. She also played an integral role in projects like the expansion of I-405 and improvements to the I-5 and SR-91 freeways.

Throughout their tenure, Director Murphy and Director Steel have contributed greatly to the delivery of OCTA's mission to keep Orange County moving.

I-5 Widening Project Progresses

Plans to widen I-5 between I-405 and SR-55 progressed as the board released a request for proposals to acquire consultant services for the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates.

The I-5 Widening Project will add one regular lane in both directions between the I-405 and SR-55 and provide new auxiliary lanes and continuous access to the carpool lanes.

The project is included in the Measure M Next 10 Delivery Plan adopted by the OCTA Board in November 2019, and is scheduled to move into the design phase using state and Measure M funding.

I-405 Improvement Project Update

The OCTA Board of Directors heard an update on the progress of the I-405 Improvement Project, which is now more than 50 percent complete.

Due to several challenges with the project to date, the board authorized the use of an additional \$180 million in Measure M funds for the project, resetting the overall amount of the project from an estimated \$1.9 billion to \$2.08 billion.

Project challenges have included legal settlements with surrounding cities, hazardous materials found in soil and utility pipes, and the discovery of archaeological resources that required work stoppages and delays to ensure all proper procedures were followed.

The I-405 Improvement Project will add one regular lane and one carpool lane, forming dual Express Lanes, in each direction on I-405 between SR-73 and I-605.