

Meeting of Aug. 23, 2021

Board Recognizes August Employees of the Month

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

The honors went to:

- Barry Chenault, a coach operator at the Garden Grove base who started his driving career with OCTA in 1986. In May, Barry achieved 29 years of safe driving.
- Andrew Snyder, a service worker at the Garden Grove base. Andrew consistently services an average of 18 buses each night – exceeding OCTA's standard of 16.
- Niall Barrett, a Program Manager in OCTA's Highway Programs section. Niall leads the delivery of several I-5 and SR-57 projects, including the I-5 Central County Improvements Project that was completed ahead of schedule and under budget last year.

OCTA Approves SB 1 Program Recommendations

The OCTA board approved the use of SB 1 State of Good Repair Program funding to construct the agency's Transit Security and Operations Center, which is currently in the design phase.

The State of Good Repair Program is a transit capital program funded by the SB 1 Transportation Improvement Fee, that is funded through vehicle registrations. The specific goal of the program is to rehabilitate and upgrade existing local transit systems, equipment and facilities.

OCTA is expected to receive \$6.4 million in State of Good Repair funding for fiscal year 2021-22. This will partially fund the construction of the Transit Security and Operations Center, which will house OCTA's central communications, field operations, Security and Emergency Preparedness, Transit Police Services and serve additional security and operational purposes.

Overall, it is estimated that the Transportation Improvement Fee will provide \$117.5 million to transit agencies statewide for fiscal year 2021-22. After the projects are approved, funds will be released to transit agencies on a quarterly basis, beginning in November.

I-405 Improvement Project Now More than 60% Complete

OCTA's Board of Directors received an update on the I-405 Improvement Project, which has been under construction since 2018.

OCTA is constructing the I-405 Improvement Project between SR-73 and I-605, which will add one regular lane in each direction from Euclid Street to I-605, and an additional lane in the center of the freeway that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes.

Updates include:

- The project is now over 60 percent complete

- Five bridge replacements are complete and open to traffic
- Four more bridges are expected to be completed by the end of 2021
- Most retaining and sound walls needed for the project will be completed by the end of 2021
- Design and right-of-way possession is substantially complete

OCTA continues to communicate with the public and its stakeholders about the I-405 Improvement Project through efforts including virtual neighborhood meetings, key stakeholder briefings, social media posts, construction alerts and fliers. The project is scheduled for completion in 2023.