

## **Meeting of November 27, 2023**

### **Board Honors November Employees of the Month**

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

The honors went to:

- Khai Tran, a coach operator at the Santa Ana base who started at OCTA in 1998. He is a model coach operator who has achieved an amazing 22 years of safe driving and has outstanding attendance. Khai's safety tip for his peers is to be patient and calm.
- Mister Davidson, a journeyman mechanic who joined OCTA in 2018 and is currently assigned to the third shift at the Santa Ana base. His level of expertise on OCTA's many bus systems – including electronics, engines and transmissions – is a definite asset, enabling him to repair even the most technical issues. Mister recently completed the six-month Master Transit Bus Technician training program.
- Ric Teano, who joined OCTA's planning division in 2000. Ric managed OCTA's federal formula and competitive grants program for 12 years, and established OCTA's Grants Compliance Office in 2017. He is recognized for not only ensuring that OCTA complies with all federal rules and regulations, but also for OCTA's perfect scores on the FTA Triennial Reviews this year and in 2019, an incredibly rare achievement.

### **OCTA Continues Enhancing Bus Operations Planning**

The OCTA board released a request for proposals for consultant services to perform the Harbor Boulevard Pilot Innovative Transit Signal Priority Study.

The comprehensive study will focus on planning and testing transit signal priority solutions to enhance bus operations and reliability and improve the customer experience. The study will include data collection, field reviews, prototype deployment, technology assessment and conceptual planning for future improvements.

The proposed final project will enhance bus operations along Harbor Boulevard through the study and sample implementation of innovative transit signal priority and advanced detection solutions at nine intersections, with plans for wider deployment. The improvements are expected to allow passengers to reach their jobs, medical appointments, schools and homes in a quicker and more reliable manner.

### **I-405 Improvement Project to Open Dec. 1**

OCTA's I-405 Improvement Project is set to open Dec. 1, improving travel times along one of the nation's busiest highways.

The \$2.16 billion project added one regular lane in each direction between Euclid Street in Fountain Valley and I-605 in Seal Beach, as promised to voters through Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. The project has also made improvements to streets and freeway on- and off-ramps, and reconstructed 18 bridges, many of which include new sidewalks and bike lanes.

In addition, the project has created the 405 Express Lanes between SR-73 and I-605, giving options to carpoolers to travel for free and solo drivers the choice to speed up their commute for a toll. Vehicles are required to have a FasTrak transponder and a valid account with any toll agency in California to enter the 405 Express Lanes, which will provide drivers with a safe, reliable commute, while maximizing the number of cars that travel at free-flow speeds.

While the bulk of the work is complete, crews will be putting the finishing touches on the project over the next several months.

For more information on the project, visit [octa.net/405Improvement](https://octa.net/405Improvement). For more information on the 405 Express Lanes, visit [405ExpressLanes.com](https://405ExpressLanes.com).