

## **Meeting of Feb. 11, 2019**

### **Employees of the Year Recognized**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board presented resolutions of appreciation to the employees of the year for 2018.

The honors went to:

- Bernard Lopez, Coach Operator of the Year
- Liem Nguyen, Maintenance Operator of the Year
- Kristopher Hewkin, Administrative Employee of the Year

Bernard Lopez was hired as a coach operator in August 1977 and currently works out of the Santa Ana Base. The Stanton resident is an exemplary employee who has provided OCTA's customers with safe, courteous and reliable service for more than 40 years. Lopez achieved 41 years of safe driving last month and is the first and only coach operator to achieve that honor.

Liem Nguyen, a Westminster resident, joined OCTA in February 1998 as an electronics technician. Over the last few years, Nguyen has exhibited an uncanny ability to troubleshoot and repair any electrical problem that may arise. Because of this, he is often assigned the most difficult tasks and has yet to be stumped. Nguyen is a leader in the electronics group who is admired by his coworkers, and his desire to pass along what he has learned to others makes him a valuable asset to OCTA and the maintenance department.

Kristopher Hewkin, a Long Beach resident, joined OCTA in 2014 as a marketing specialist. Thanks to Hewkin's diligence and commitment to success, OCTA's vanpool program has grown to a total of 493 vans. Hewkin is a strong team player with a can-do spirit, and through his dedication and hard work, he has contributed to achieving program goals and fulfilling OCTA's mission.

### **2019 CEO Initiatives and Action Plan Presented**

CEO Darrell E. Johnson presented his Initiatives and Action Plan for the year, in support of the board's strategic initiatives. The initiatives support the OCTA strategic plan goal areas of mobility, public service, fiscal responsibility, stewardship and organizational excellence. There are 10 CEO initiatives, supporting 73 projects and programs and monitored through 88 milestones.

The Initiatives are as followed:

- **Cultivate Organizational Excellence**
- **Deliver on the Promises of Measure M**
- **Enhance Safety & Security Measures**
- **Expand Transit Opportunities**
- **Implement Major Capital Projects**
- **Maintain Open Communication with Stakeholders**
- **Optimize Express & Managed Lanes**
- **Plan for Future Growth**

- **Preserve Fiscal Sustainability Through Prudent Financial Planning**
- **Promote Environmental Stewardship & Alternative Transportation**

### **Caltrans Provides Updates on SR-22 Improvements**

Caltrans updated the OCTA board on the SR-22 Safety Improvement Project.

The \$20.5 million project will improve safety along the eastbound SR-22 near the I-5 and SR-57 interchanges.

The project will modify the eastbound SR-22 configuration and redistribute traffic to reduce traffic collisions, ease congestion and improve traffic flow. Improvements include reconfiguring the eastbound traffic barrier and adding a lane to the SR-22 connector to northbound I-5 and SR-57.

Construction on the project is expected to begin in July and is scheduled for completion in early 2021.