

Meeting of April 22, 2019

OCTA Welcomes Board Member Don Wagner

The Orange County Transportation Authority board of directors welcomed Don Wagner, the newly elected Third District Supervisor, to begin serving on the 18-member board that oversees transportation planning, funding and implementation in Orange County.

Supervisor Wagner is the former mayor of Irvine and, prior to that, served six years in the State Assembly representing California's 68th District.

April Employees of the Month Recognized

OCTA's board recognized two employees of the month for April.

The honors went to:

- Graden Alegre, coach operator
- Stephanie Chhan, administration

OC Bus 360° Continues Innovating to Meet Community Needs

The OCTA board received an update on OC Bus 360°, the agency's comprehensive effort aimed at reshaping transit service throughout the county, which is continuing to show positive results.

As part of OC Bus 360°, OCTA launched Bravo! Route 529 limited-stop service along Beach Boulevard on Feb. 11. The weekday service, which makes stops at 13 key locations instead of the typical 34 stops, saves riders an average of about 10 minutes. More than 23,000 people boarded the new service during its first month.

OCTA's college pass program, which launched at Santa Ana College in September 2017, has also seen success. The three-year pilot program allows Santa Ana College students to ride OC Bus for free using their student ID card. Ridership at the college grew 12.6 percent between the fall 2017 and 2018 semesters.

Last fall, the college pass program was expanded to include Santiago Canyon College. More than 622,000 students from both colleges boarded the bus with their college pass during the fall semester. OCTA is working with other community colleges to potentially expand the program.

An updated OC Bus mobile ticketing app was also released in March with the goal of boosting mobile ticketing use. Updates include a redesigned interface, the ability to purchase tickets using Google Pay or Apple Pay and the addition of Touch ID and Face ID security features.

Study to Evaluate Transit Improvements on Bristol Street

The board also received an update on the Bristol Street Corridor Study, which will identify options for improving transit service along Bristol Street from 17th Street to the South Coast Metro area and evaluate connections to John Wayne Airport.

Bristol Street accounts for approximately 8 percent of OCTA's total ridership, one of the highest in the county. It provides access to several key destinations including John Wayne Airport, the Santa Ana Civic Center, Santa Ana College, South Coast Plaza and the South Coast Metro area and has the potential to connect to Metrolink and Amtrak via the future OC Streetcar.

The study will evaluate a range of possible transit improvements, including bus, bus rapid transit or streetcar, and will identify the best performing options that have wide community support. OCTA will seek feedback throughout the process from the public, nearby cities, local businesses, and other key stakeholders.

Six improvement options will be developed this summer and evaluated in the winter, with the final report expected to be released in summer 2020.

For more information on the Bristol Street study, please visit octa.net/Bristol