

## **Meeting of Sept. 23, 2019**

### **September Employees of the Month Recognized**

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

The honors went to:

- Mike Hang, coach operator
- Robert Rodriguez, maintenance
- Janice Lambe, administration

### **Bus Service Changes set for October**

The OCTA board received an update on bus service changes that will be implemented on Oct. 13.

The changes are part of OC Bus 360°, OCTA's ongoing effort to improve bus service and increase the efficiency of transit throughout the county by better matching service to rider demands.

October's service changes include:

- Extending Route 26 to Yorba Linda Boulevard and Imperial Highway
- Extending Route 59 midday trips to The District
- Adding one morning trip on Route 79 to the University of California, Irvine
- Eliminating Route 211 because of low ridership
- Eliminating Stationlink Route 462, launching Route 862 and revising routing on routes 55 and 83 in Santa Ana for construction of the OC Streetcar

### **SR-91 Improvement Project Advances**

Plans for improvements between La Palma Avenue and SR-55 proceeded as the OCTA board released a request for proposals to retain a consultant to design the project.

These improvements are one of three segments of the SR-91 Improvement Project that will speed up traffic along the freeway between SR-57 and SR-55 and reduce weaving and merging between successive ramps at several interchanges. The project is a part of Measure M, also known as OC Go, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

The project, funded through net excess 91 Express Lanes toll revenues, will add a regular lane in the eastbound direction between La Palma Avenue and SR-55. It will also make improvements in the westbound direction between Acacia Street and La Palma Avenue and between SR-55

and Lakeview Avenue. The project includes reconstruction of the La Palma Avenue bridge and reconstruction of the Kraemer Boulevard/Glassell Street, Tustin Avenue and Lakeview Avenue interchanges.

### **Board Sets Plan for Using State Transportation Funds**

The OCTA Board approved seven projects totaling more than \$203 million to be considered for funding through the State Transportation Improvement Program.

The STIP is a major source of funding for transportation improvements throughout the state, and funds are used on projects which have countywide significance and will supplement OCTA's local funding through OC Go.

The projects submitted to the California Transportation Commission for consideration include:

- SR-55 improvements from I-405 to I-5 freeway (\$80 million)
- I-5 improvements from I-405 to Yale Avenue (\$95.3 million)
- SR-74 Ortega Highway improvements from Calle Entradero to the county line (\$8.5 million)
- I-5 improvements from SR-73 to El Toro Road (\$6 million)
- I-5 improvements from Avenida Pico to the San Diego County line (\$5.5 million)

The CTC is expected to consider the projects and adopt the state program in March.