

Meeting of Feb. 28, 2022

Board Recognizes February Employees of the Month

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

The honors went to:

- Lisa Ragsdale, a coach operator at the Garden Grove base who started with OCTA in 1999. In her nearly 23 years of dedicated service, Lisa has consistently provided excellent customer service. She achieved an impressive 21 years of safe driving last year.
- Brad Taylor, a facilities technician at the Irvine Sand Canyon base who joined OCTA in 2017. Brad diligently performs preventive maintenance and equipment diagnostics at transit centers and park-and-ride facilities and is always looking for opportunities to improve work processes.
- Yamille Welch, a workers' compensation program specialist in the Risk Management Department who joined OCTA in 2017. Yamille recently helped relaunch OCTA's Transitional Work Program that had been suspended due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, helping save the agency in claims costs.

Traffic Volumes on 91 Express Lanes Exceed Pre-Pandemic Levels

The OCTA board received a quarterly update on the 91 Express Lanes, showing that usage has rebounded from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, surpassing traffic volumes reached in 2019.

Highlights of the report include:

- Traffic volume on the 91 Express Lanes in December 2021 was more than 1.6 million, a 51% increase from December 2020 and a nearly 14% increase from December 2019
- Traffic volume in 2021 surpassed the highs reached prior to the pandemic, with usage being nearly 5% higher than 2019
- Over the past 12 months, the number of 91 Express Lanes accounts increased by approximately 9,100 and nearly 215,000 transponders were distributed
- As of December 2021, tolls rates ranged from \$1.75 to \$8.35

OCTA has owned and operated 10 miles of the 91 Express Lanes between SR-55 in Anaheim and the border with Riverside County since 2003. For more information, visit [91ExpressLanes.com](https://www.91ExpressLanes.com).