



Orange County Transportation Authority . 550 South Main Street . P.O. Box 14184 . Orange, California 92863-1584 . 714-560-OCTA (6282)

## Meeting of April 22, 2013

### Review Continues on I-405 Improvement Project

In October, the board selected Alternative 1 for the I-405 Improvement Project, which would add one general-purpose lane in each direction. Currently in the draft environmental stage, the board voted to explore additional concepts to the project.

Approved for additional review were:

- Concept A: Adding another general-purpose lane in each direction and converting the existing carpool lane to a single high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane
- Concept B: Continue building Alternative 2 which adds two general-purpose lanes in each direction and shorten the second northbound general purpose lane to end at Valley View Street
- Concept C: Adding the single general-purpose lane and an additional carpool lane

These concepts are expected to take three months to complete and will add \$155,000 to projects costs. In September 2013, OCTA staff will return to the board with additional information and seek direction on how to proceed.

### Angels Express and Orange County Fair Express Receive MSRC Grant

OCTA was awarded a \$771,068 grant to support the operating costs of the Angels Express and Orange County Fair Express services. The competitive grant was funded by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.



The Angels Express was awarded \$194,235 for the service that is now under way. The grant will support Metrolink service for 48 regular season games and will operate through Sept. 24. Last year nearly 38,000 people took the Angels Express.



The Orange County Fair Express was awarded \$576,833 for the upcoming fair season. Last year the Fair Express provided nearly 47,000 boardings. This year the buses will be available for five weekends starting July 12 and continuing through Aug.11.

The MSRC Major Event Center Transportation Grant program requires a local match that is equal to or greater than the MSRC funding request amount. OCTA will provide \$582,500 in matching funds for the Orange County Fair Express and \$208,000 in matching funds for the Angels Express.



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The MSRC makes grants available on a competitive basis to reduce the amount of solo commute. The agency promotes transit use to decrease emissions within the South Coast Air Basin.

### **Board Receives Update on the I-5 Improvement Project between SR 55 and SR 57**

The I-5 Improvement Project is currently in the environmental phase with selection of a locally preferred alternative expected early next year. The project intends to reduce traffic congestion by adding a second carpool lane in each direction between the Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) and Orange Freeway (SR-57). A reconstruction of the southbound I-5 on-ramp to First Street also is proposed.

Project alternatives include:

- No Build
- Removing the barrier between the carpool lanes and general-purpose lanes and adding a carpool lane
- Removing the barrier between the carpool lanes and general-purpose lanes, adding a carpool lane and removing the Main Street carpool on- and off-ramps

The project design is scheduled to be completed by late 2015 and project construction is anticipated to start in 2016.

### **Board Approves Pension Plan Revision**

OCTA employees will pay their full share of pension costs under a plan approved by the board that will result in \$85 million savings over the next 20 years. Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, administrative employees will contribute an average of 2 percent of their salaries to their pensions. That contribution will increase each year until employees are paying 100 percent of their employee share by Jan. 1, 2017. This plan will result in an \$8.2 million savings to taxpayers over the three-year period.

OCTA has been paying an average of 8 percent for each administrative employee's share of their pension costs. OCTA's 1,100 union-represented coach operators, maintenance workers, facilities technicians and parts clerks already contributed 100 percent of the employee share.

OCTA has a merit-based pay-for-performance model much like the private sector where employees only receive raises if they achieve clearly defined goals and objectives. In response to the Great Recession, from mid 2009 through 2012 OCTA administrative employees received no merit-based pay raises.

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



Jose Aguayo was named coach operator of the month for achieving 13 years of safe driving. Aguayo maintains an excellent work record and shows a high level of dedication to his job by achieving an excellent

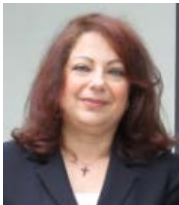


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attendance record. His attention to detail and concern for his customers has helped OCTA's ridership grow and has earned him the respect from his supervisors, fellow coach operators and passengers.



Billy Pham was named maintenance employee of the month for his innovative contributions, commitment and positive attitude. Pham is a highly skilled mechanic who demonstrates an outstanding work ethic and strong desire to excel. His in-depth knowledge of the multiple systems on OCTA's buses make him a positive contributor to his department on a daily basis.



Nora Yeretian was named administrative employee of the month for excelling in her duties as a marketing program administrator. Yeretian is dedicated to delivering effective marketing programs to retain and increase OCTA Metrolink ridership. Her positive attitude and high levels of integrity and professionalism have earned her recognition for the month of April.