

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

Meeting of June 13, 2011

Board Approves \$1.1 Billion Budget For 2011-12

The board unanimously approved a \$1.1 billion budget for fiscal year 2011-12, which goes into effect July 1.

The budget includes \$226 million for capital projects, including the Metrolink service expansion, grade separation projects and Measure M2 freeway

projects. The bus operations budget approved for next year totals \$284.4 million and maintains the current levels of service, following several years of decreases.

Coach operators, mechanics, maintenance personnel and administrative employees will not receive salary increases during the next fiscal year.



In the next year, it is anticipated that sales tax will increase approximately 5 percent, and OCTA expects to receive approximately \$19 million in State Transit Assistance funding. Despite improving sales tax revenues, bus ridership is expected to remain relatively flat because of the slowly recovering economy and high rates of unemployment in both Orange County and the state.

The fiscal year 2011-2012 budget is 4.3 percent or \$49.9 million less than the fiscal year 2010-2011 budget.

M2 Funds Headed to Signal Synchronization Projects

Nearly \$8 million is heading to Orange County streets after the board voted to deliver the first signal synchronization funds to cities under the voter-approved Measure M2.



The money will go to synchronization projects in 12 cities along 17 major streets in Orange County. The projects will get under way this year and cover more than 500 signals along approximately 140 miles of roadway.

"This is an exciting milestone and we are very

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happy to start delivering on the promises made under the renewed Measure M to cities throughout Orange County," said OCTA Chair Patricia Bates, also the Fifth District supervisor. "These are the first in what will be a long list of signal synchronization projects to make the lives of our residents better over the next 30 years."

Signal synchronization is a simple concept that has proven to significantly reduce travel times for drivers. The signals are timed to maximize the number of green lights for drivers during the heaviest periods of traffic, ensuring that vehicles are moving in the most efficient manner.

OCTA Seeks New Public Board Member

The board of directors approved a process to replace Director Peter Buffa, who resigned last month after serving since 2005 as one two public members on the board.

The new director will be appointed by the board to a four-year term and there is no limit to the number of terms a public member can be re-appointed. A four-member ad hoc committee was formed to review applicants.

The committee is expected to select candidates to be interviewed by the full board at its Aug. 8 meeting. The committee is comprised of OCTA Chair Patricia Bates, Vice Chair Paul Glaab, and Directors Lorri Galloway and Greg Winterbottom.

Requirements include being a resident of Orange County, and neither currently serving or served in the last four years as an elected official within the county. Resumes must also include prior experience with serving on a transportation board, or any other relative experience.

For information on the vacancy and recruitment process, visit www.octa.net.