



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

Meeting of October 5, 2012

Board Considers Implementing a Bus Fare Adjustment

In order to address rising costs and service levels the Board is considering the implementation of a system-wide bus fare increase.

OCTA's bus system is primarily funded by the state. In order to continue receiving this money, OCTA is required to maintain a state-mandated 20 percent farebox recovery ratio. This requires OCTA collect from passengers a minimum of 20 cents for every dollar spent on operating the service. If bus fares aren't increased, OCTA is in jeopardy of falling below this mark.

From Sept. 20 to Oct. 4, OCTA hosted five meetings throughout the county in order to seek public input regarding a proposed increase to bus fares.

The last fare increase took place in January 2009. Since then, the cost to provide bus service has increased from \$98 per service hour to \$108. An additional fare adjustment was planned in 2011; however an increase in sales tax allowed OCTA to avoid raising fares.

The proposed fare changes are listed below:

- Proposed cash fare: \$1.50 to \$2
- Proposed day pass: \$4 to \$5
- Proposed 30-day pass: \$55 to \$69

A public hearing on the proposed increase will be held at 9 a.m. on Oct. 22 at the OCTA board meeting. The board is expected to vote on the proposal at its Nov. 26 meeting. If an increase is approved, the changes would go into effect Feb. 10.

Board Receives Update on Anaheim Rapid Connection Project



Anaheim Public Works Director Natalie Meeks provided an update to the board on its Anaheim Rapid Connection project (ARC).

The purpose of the ARC project is to provide a frequent and easy-to-use transit connection between the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC), which is now



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under construction, and popular city destinations for residents, employees and visitors. The city expects these transit connections will help to develop a sustainable urban community.

Anaheim is the most populated city in Orange County and a key tourist and entertainment destination. The city aims to enhance its transportation system, which includes:

- Enhanced bus services
- Streetcar service
- Increased Metrolink and Amtrak services
- Future California High-Speed Rail service



For the project next steps, the locally preferred alternative will be discussed by the City Council on Oct. 9 and by the OCTA board on Nov. 26. ARC is expected to be completed in 2018.

Anaheim Ducks Express Service Receives MSRC Grant for Second Year



On Sept. 17, OCTA was awarded a nearly \$44,000 grant to support the operating costs of the Anaheim Ducks Express service. The competitive grant was funded by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

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 \$52,400 in matching funds.

The MSRC made available \$2 million to fund operating costs for new or expanded transit services that serve major event centers in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

The Ducks Express will use existing rail service at the Anaheim Stadium Station and offer a shuttle bus that will drive fans to Honda Center and back on days with Ducks home games. For the upcoming 2012-13 Ducks hockey season, the Ducks Express shuttles are expected to run through April 10.

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. Within the last year, the MSRC has provided OCTA more than \$577,000 in funding for the Metrolink Angels Express and OC Fair Express bus services.



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Funding Awarded for State College Grade Separation Project Development

The board approved full funding for the State College Boulevard railroad grade separation project in Anaheim. The project is in the development stage and OCTA has been working closely with Anaheim and Metrolink to speed up delivery of the project.

The project will total \$92 million, funded through a combination of Measure M2 and state dollars.

Over the past several years OCTA has been working to implement a comprehensive program for numerous separation projects along the Los Angeles, San Diego and San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) corridor. In 2005, OCTA completed the Orange/Olive Grade Crossing Study which identified 51 grade crossings along the corridor that are in need of separation. The 51 projects were ranked and prioritized by the board based on factors such as traffic volumes and costs.



OCTA staff will return to the board for funding approval to advance more of the LOSSAN grade separation projects.

Caltrans Presents Riverside Freeway Construction Update



OCTA has been working in partnership with Caltrans on the nearly completed Riverside Freeway (SR-91) Westbound and Eastbound Lane Addition Project.

The SR-91 is one of the most congested freeways in Orange County and carries approximately 300,000 commuters each day.

The overall SR-91 Improvement Project includes:

- The Eastbound Lane Addition project in Corona, which has been recently completed
- The Westbound and Eastbound Lane Widening project in Anaheim Hills and Yorba Linda, which is currently under construction
- The Westbound Lane Addition project in Fullerton will be completed later this year or early next year

The Caltrans report included information on major milestones, including extensive completion of roadwork, bridge widening and reconstruction of fifteen ramps. The estimated costs for the three projects total \$74.3 million.

The overall benefits for the SR-91 Improvement Project include:

- New lanes added to alleviate bottlenecks at key points between I-5 and SR-71



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- Improved flow of traffic on SR-91 throughout this 22-mile stretch
- Enhanced driving conditions by delivering operational improvements