

## **Meeting of April 27, 2015**

### **OCTA to take the lead on 405 Express Lanes project**

OCTA will maintain local control of the I-405 Improvement Project after the board voted to take the lead on implementing both the general-purpose lane promised in Measure M and the express lanes, which will speed up travel for everyone in the corridor.

The \$1.7 billion project will improve the San Diego (I-405) Freeway between Costa Mesa and the Los Angeles county line, an area traveled by more than 370,000 vehicles a day, making it the busiest stretch of highway in the nation.

The board's vote means that OCTA will take the lead on implementing the 405 Express Lanes project between SR-73 and I-605 in addition to adding one general-purpose lane in each direction from Euclid Street to I-605.

In coming months, OCTA staff will return to the board with a draft 405 Express Lanes toll policy, a financing plan, and a traffic and revenue study will be performed to help determine how the 405 Express Lanes will operate. In addition, the board's action will result in any excess toll revenue remaining in the 405 corridor to be spent on local transportation improvement projects.

### **Measure M funds to ease traffic countywide**

Cities throughout Orange County will receive more than \$48 million to help ease traffic through Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

The board awarded funding for 23 projects to improve and widen busy streets and intersections. Seven additional projects will receive funding to synchronize traffic signals to ensure drivers hit the most green lights during rush hours.

A call for projects was issued by OCTA in August through the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program, making funding available for improving congested streets and to synchronize traffic signals. Project applications were reviewed for eligibility, consistency and adherence to Measure M guidelines.

The cities receiving project funds are Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana and Yorba Linda.

### **Board considers new bus designs**

OCTA is in the process of replacing 41 percent of its bus fleet and is exploring the opportunity to modernize its bus branding to appeal to new potential riders.

OCTA staff has come up with final designs, based on community feedback, that include colorful graphics and a new brand name: "OC Bus."

Staff presented these options to the board. Directors recommended that staff move forward with the process and gauge public reaction to the designs.

The existing branding has been in place for nearly 20 years. Buses now on order would receive the revamped look and existing vehicles would be updated over the next few years as opportunities arise.

### **Employees of the month honored**

The Orange County Transportation Authority board recognized three Employees of the Month for April 2015. Resolutions of Appreciation were presented to coach operator Leticia Rivera, service worker Rufino Rodriguez and transportation analyst Joe Alcock.