

Meeting of Oct. 26, 2015

Proposed Measure M amendment would boost transit programs

The board took the first step to amending the Measure M2 Transportation Investment Plan that would reallocate funds between programs in the transit portion of the plan.

Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, was renewed by Orange County voters in 2006. A comprehensive review of the program, which is required at least once every 10 years, was presented to the board earlier this month. It identified a need to move funding between transit programs to assist programs in financial need.

Project T of Measure M is to be used to convert Metrolink stations to regional gateways that connect the county with high-speed rail systems. Some of this funding was used for the construction of ARTIC, which is already in operation. Because no other stations in the county are designated as stops on the planned high-speed route, the remaining funds would be reallocated to address the needs of two other transit programs:

- The Fare Stabilization Program that provides fare discounts for seniors and people with disabilities
- The Metrolink Service Expansion that supports ongoing capital improvement requirements and operations of Metrolink service

A community meeting to discuss the 10-year review and proposed amendment is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 at OCTA Headquarters, 550 S. Main Street in Orange. A public hearing on the proposed amendment is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Dec. 14, also at OCTA.

Construction firm selected for Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo station improvements

The OCTA board selected Woodcliff Corporation to lead construction of the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo station improvements project, which includes adding Americans with Disabilities Act compliant ramps to the existing pedestrian undercrossing.

The station opened in 2002 and has an average of 340 weekly Metrolink boardings. It's located a half-mile away from the I-5 and near major employment centers and attractions, including The Shops at Mission Viejo, Saddleback College and Mission Hospital.

In addition to the ramps, the project will remove the existing elevators and convert the space into public restrooms and space for vending machines. Three passenger canopies also will be installed.

Board recognizes Employees of the Month

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

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Coach operator Calvin Coleman
- Maintenance employee Alex Hiskey

- Administrative employee May Hout