



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

Meeting of July 22, 2013

Short-Range Transit Plan Focuses On Enhancing Service For Passengers

The board reviewed the Short-Range Transit Plan for 2013 which sets the direction on changes that could be made to the fixed-route bus system and how future resources will be allocated through 2017.

The goals for the short-range transit plan include measures to support:

- Financial sustainability
- Safe, courteous, reliable and effective service
- Transit that serves different markets
- Environmental sustainability
- Economic development

High priorities for the plan include addressing increasing passenger loads and on-time performance issues, decreasing overcrowded bus conditions and regulating improvements proposed in the Transit System Study.

The next steps will be to finalize the plan based on input from the board, develop maintenance recommendations for the October service change and regularly update the plan once it is implemented.



ACCESS Customers Report Smooth Transition

An update was presented to the board regarding the transition of ACCESS paratransit service to MV Transportation that occurred on July 1.



Since MV took over operating the service, riders have been pleased with the service and have found it to be a smooth transition. On-time performance has been consistent and ACCESS service is currently operating at and above the required standards. The transition has had little impact on overall service quality.

OCTA will continue to monitor the transition and report back on the service.

OCTA approved a four-year contract with MV in March for \$157.7 million, with two two-year option terms.

Board Tackles Key Issues on Long-Range Transportation Plan

The board began a policy discussion of key issues that should be addressed by the Long-Range Transportation Plan, which is currently under development.



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The plan looks out to the transportation needs in 2035 and will take into consideration a number of factors including:

- Travel demand in Orange County is continually increasing
- Demand is outpacing capacity on Orange County's roadways
- Maintaining existing highways and rail systems will require large investments
- Rules and regulations continue to increase
- Inter-county and intra-county connections need additional focus

The 2014 long-range transportation plan is updated every four years and highlights OCTA's vision for the future of Orange County's transportation system. It is provided to the Southern California Association of Governments to be included in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Goals and objectives for the plan were brought to the board in June. The plan is expected to be finalized in summer 2014 and outreach activities to increase awareness and involve the public in planning will begin this summer.

Bravo! Service Rolls To A Good Start

The board received an update on the implementation of Bravo!, OCTA's new, faster bus service. Bravo! Route 543 began operating on June 10 along Harbor Boulevard's Route 43, OCTA's busiest route.



A customer roundtable was held on June 26 and feedback showed that customers have been pleased with the limited-stop service.

To date, Route 543 has a high on-time performance and with the added service, the regular bus that travels on Harbor Boulevard, Route 43, has had few reports of overcrowding. The type of fare payment also is helping to speed up travel. Early results show 78 percent of riders paying with a pass and 22 percent paying with cash which reduces passenger

loading times.

From June 10 to July 5 ridership reached a high of 13,234 with 9,106 riders on Route 43 and 4,128 riders on Route 543. The ridership goal for 2015 is to serve more than 16,000 daily riders between the two routes.

Bravo! is the first of three Transit System Study pilot projects to launch, the other two pilot projects on the horizon include a new intracounty express on SR-73 and a new intercounty express on SR-22.

Board Honors Employees of the Month for July



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Ray Lugo was named coach operator of the month for his safe driving and reliability. Lugo maintains an excellent work record and has shown dedication to his job by demonstrating safety and courtesy in his daily duties. His attention to detail and can-do spirit has earned him respect from his supervisors, fellow operators and passengers.



Andy Xiong was named maintenance employee of the month for his motivation, versatility and professionalism. Xiong is an electronic technician at the Garden Grove base and has worked with OCTA for 29 years. His troubleshooting skills in destination signs, fareboxes, and radios have been a great asset to the OCTA team.



Louis Zhao was named administrative employee of the month for excelling in his duties as a transportation funding analyst in the strategic planning department. Zhao is a dedicated employee and last year helped implement a call for projects which provided \$21 million in state funds to 53 local agency projects. His teamwork and exceptional follow-through have earned him recognition for the month of July.