

## **Meeting of June 26, 2017**

### **\$627 Million TIFIA Loan gets Board Approval for I-405 Project**

The Board of Directors approved plans to secure a \$627 million federal loan for the I-405 Improvement Project, which will pay for a large portion of the \$1.9 billion worth of freeway improvements while saving millions of dollars in local money in the process.

The board action authorizes OCTA to sign all final documents with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the loan through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, commonly called TIFIA.

By taking advantage of the low-interest-rate loan terms, the TIFIA loan is expected to save about \$300 million over the 35-year life of the loan.

The loan will be repaid solely using revenue collected from drivers who choose to use the Express Lanes being built as part of the project.

OCTA, in cooperation with Caltrans, is leading the I-405 Improvement Project between State Route 73 in Costa Mesa and Interstate 605 at the Orange County border with Long Beach.

The design-build project, between State Route 73 in Costa Mesa and Interstate 605, will add one general-purpose lane in each direction of the I-405 between Euclid Street and I-605, as promised to voters through Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

The improvement project will also add a second lane in each direction that will be combined with an existing carpool lane to provide dual tolled lanes on I-405 between SR-73 and I-605, called the 405 Express Lanes.

The money saved through the TIFIA loan will allow the 405 Express Lanes to remain free to cars occupied by two or more people during non-peak hours for the first 3 ½ years after the Express Lanes open.

Finalization of the loan must still be completed with the U.S. Department of Transportation, with the Secretary of Transportation giving final approval. That decision is anticipated in July.

For more information on the I-405 Improvement Project, visit [www.octa.net/405improvement](http://www.octa.net/405improvement).

### **June Employees of the Month Honored**

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

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Coach operator Darvy Traylor
- Esteban Gonzalez from maintenance
- John Paul Gonzalez from administration

## **New Members Chosen for Taxpayer Oversight Committee**

Two new members were appointed to be a part of the 11-member, Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee. The Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee members represent each of the five Orange County supervisorial districts and have been meeting regularly since 1990.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of transportation improvements, provided through Measure M.

With the recruitment process complete, a lottery was held to fill the second and third supervisorial district positions, along with alternates.

The following people were selected:

- Larry Tekler from Huntington Beach in the second district
- Andre Lesko from Yorba Linda in the third district

The member recruitment is handled by a five-member panel of the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County.

The two new members will begin their terms in July and will serve a three-year term. They will replace Margie Drilling and Ronald T. Randolph.

The outgoing members received Orange County Transportation Authority resolutions of appreciation for their dedication, time and commitment.

## **Special Needs Advisory Committee Annual Update**

The annual status and summary of the Special Needs Advisory Committee was given, providing updates of the committee's activities during the past year. The committee meets quarterly and advises OCTA on the integration of public transit services, and improves communication between OCTA and customers who have special transportation needs. The committee also provides support for ACCESS service eligibility appeals.

The 34-member committee members serve staggered three-year terms, this year 13 members terms expire and three other positions were vacated. Seven of the 13 members were reappointed and three new members were appointed. Recruitment efforts are ongoing to fill the six vacant positions.

This year the committee provided feedback and comments on the OC Streetcar project, the Transit Master Plan, the Long-Range Transportation Plan and fare study recommendations.

## **Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Update and New Members Appointed**

The Citizens Advisory Committee provides feedback on significant transportation issues, helps identify opportunities for community input and serves as a public liaison for OCTA. The committee met five times this year to review a variety of OCTA programs and topics.

Key activities for this past year include:

- Providing input for the Transit Master Plan and Long-Range Transportation Plan
- Commenting on OCTA's state and federal legislative platform
- Discussing the progress of OC Streetcar and I-405 Improvement Project
- Providing feedback on the Measure M Next 10 Plan and Central Harbor Boulevard Transit Corridor Study
- Following up on the outcome of OC Bus 360° Plan and the fare study
- Providing input on OCTA marketing efforts related to bicycle and pedestrian safety, bus education and Metrolink and Amtrak services

Each OCTA board members appoints two CAC members, making up the 34 members who serve staggered two-year terms.