

## **Meeting of June 10, 2019**

### **OCTA Board Approves \$1.5 Billion Balanced Budget**

The Orange County Transportation Authority board approved a balanced budget of more than \$1.5 billion for the upcoming fiscal year.

The FY 2019-20 budget encompasses all services, projects and programs that are administered by OCTA. The budget will go into effect July 1, reflecting a significant investment in capital projects.

Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go, will continue to fund improvements to freeways and streets throughout the county, along with multiple transit programs. Included in the budget is \$366.4 million to help fund freeway improvements, \$159 million for cities to improve Orange County's roads and \$48.5 million for the ongoing OC Streetcar construction.

Efforts to improve transit service will continue through OC Bus 360°, OCTA's comprehensive effort aimed at reshaping transit service throughout the county. This will be the first full year that Bravo! 529, a limited-stop bus route on Beach Boulevard, will be in service, and the OC Flex microtransit pilot program will continue to operate.

The FY 2019-20 balanced budget is a result of OCTA's mission to deliver innovative, long-term sustainable transportation solutions for the residents of Orange County.

### **Public Provides Feedback on Proposed Bus Service Changes**

The OCTA board held a public hearing to receive feedback from bus riders about proposed bus service changes which, if approved, would be implemented in October and February.

The proposed changes are part of OC Bus 360°, OCTA's ongoing effort to improve bus service and increase the efficiency of transit throughout the county by better matching service to rider demands.

Among the proposed changes is extended service to popular locations and improved weekend service. Minor service reductions may also take place on a few routes, and Routes 206 and 211 are proposed to be discontinued in October because of low ridership.

In addition, some OC Bus routes will be adjusted to accommodate OC Streetcar construction. The streetcar is expected to begin operations in 2022.

In addition to the hearing, the public was able to provide input through an online survey and at three community meetings that were held in May throughout the county.

Public input will be reviewed and considered as OCTA develops the bus service change plan. The final plan is expected to go to the board for review and approval on July 22.

### **Board Approves \$20.4 Million to Improve Biking, Walking in O.C.**

The OCTA board approved \$20.4 million to help Orange County cities improve their bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Funding was awarded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program to 12 projects that increase safety, provide linkages to key destinations, close bikeway gaps and improve air quality across the county. These projects include bicycle lanes and traffic signals and walking and cycling trails.

The 12 projects that received funding are in Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Irvine, La Habra, Mission Viejo, Orange, Placentia, Santa Ana and the County of Orange.

To date, the board has awarded nearly \$35 million in funding to 46 projects through the Bicycle Corridor Improvement Project.

### **\$8.5 Million Awarded to Help Ease Traffic Through OC Go**

The OCTA board also approved \$8.5 million to fund six projects that will improve traffic throughout the county.

Nearly \$7.7 million will help fund five signal synchronization projects in Fullerton, Irvine, Lake Forest and Aliso Viejo, and \$835,000 will help fund improvements to the intersection of Euclid Street and Westminster Avenue in Garden Grove.

A call for projects went out in August through the Regional Capacity Program and the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program to improve traffic flow and improve intersections. Both competitive programs are funded by OC Go.

The Regional Capacity Program funds intersection improvements and other projects to help reduce congestion. The signal synchronization program provides funding to time traffic lights on streets and roads that run through multiple cities throughout Orange County.