

Meeting of July 13, 2020

OCTA Board Pays Tribute to Director Winterbottom

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors held a special tribute in honor of Director Gregory T. Winterbottom, OCTA's 27-year board member, who passed away at his home on June 26.

Director Winterbottom, who was 73, is being mourned by friends and colleagues throughout the transportation industry for his accomplished career serving the residents of Orange County and those throughout Southern California.

Winterbottom, himself a wheelchair user for more than 50 years, provided a valuable perspective and important viewpoint to issues regarding people with disabilities. He was a champion for projects and programs designed to ensure everyone had equal access to both transportation and public spaces, long before the Americans with Disabilities Act became law. His leadership and commitment to full access for all government services ensured that the county was ready for ADA in 1990.

Winterbottom pioneered the Dial-A-Ride program to provide door-to-door transportation for wheelchair users and the elderly, and managed the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency to provide empathetic, cost-effective transportation services for individuals with disabilities. The programs paved the way for OCTA's ACCESS paratransit service, which records nearly 1.4 million boardings by eligible Orange County residents each year.

Winterbottom served as chairman of the OCTA board in 2004 and 2013. Most recently he served as vice chairman of OCTA's Transit Committee, on the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee, and as a board member of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, which operates Metrolink.

To watch a short video honoring Director Winterbottom's long and distinguished career, [click here](#).

SR-91 Plan Details \$1.3 Billion of Planned Improvements

The OCTA board received a draft plan that details current and planned improvements to SR-91 between SR-57 in Orange County and I-15 in Riverside County through 2035 and beyond.

Each year, OCTA and the Riverside County Transportation Commission prepare an updated SR-91 Implementation Plan to ensure that projects are carefully coordinated to best benefit drivers, while minimizing construction impacts to commuters and the surrounding communities. The plan is prepared in consultation with Caltrans, the Transportation Corridor Agencies, and the cities of Anaheim, Corona, Orange and Yorba Linda.

Since 2003, nearly \$2 billion has been invested in the completion of eight projects in this area, including adding nearly 67 lane miles on SR-91, which has helped keep pace with the effects of population growth and employment between Orange and Riverside counties.

This year's plan includes four projects in Orange County, totaling approximately \$600 million, three projects in Riverside County, totaling nearly \$390 million, and four projects that would benefit both counties, totaling more than \$300 million.

The projects in Orange County include improvements to SR-91 between SR-57 and SR-55, improvements to the Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station, construction of the Placentia Metrolink station and improvements to Fairmont Boulevard.

OCTA Meeting Major Transportation Milestones Despite Pandemic Challenges

The OCTA board received a mid-year report on the status of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer Initiatives and Action Plan showing that the agency has met 41 of 92 milestones for 2020 through the first two quarters of the year.

OCTA is on track to meet another 40 milestones by the end of 2020. Some other milestones have been adjusted because of the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The milestones achieved have included advancing projects promised to voters through Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go. Among them are important freeway improvement projects on the I-405, I-5 and SR-91, continuing to build the OC Streetcar, funding street improvements and enhancing the OC Bus system.

The milestones, first approved in January, were adjusted slightly in May in response to the coronavirus pandemic, resulting in 92 milestones instead of the initial 97. The initiatives and milestones will be reviewed again by the board this fall.