

Meeting of Nov. 23, 2020

OCTA Bids Farewell to Outgoing Board Members

The Orange County Transportation Authority recognized outgoing board members, Director Miguel Pulido and Director Laurie Davies, for their dedicated service and commitment.

Director Pulido, also the mayor of Santa Ana, is OCTA's longest-serving board member with 23 years of service. Throughout his tenure at OCTA, Director Pulido has played a vital role improving every aspect of Orange County's transportation system, from public transit, to streets, freeways and the development of the OC Streetcar. His commitment and leadership ensured the delivery of promises made to voters through the original Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, and ensured the passage of its renewal in 2006. He has also been a strong advocate for clean-air initiatives, helping the agency navigate from diesel buses, to liquified natural gas, to compressed natural gas, and more recently, to hydrogen fuel-cell electric and plug-in electric technologies. To watch a video about Director Pulido's time on the board, [click here](#).

After four years of service on the board, Director Davies, also a Laguna Niguel council member, will be moving on after she was elected to represent the state's 73rd Assembly District. She took on the leadership role as Chair of OCTA's Legislative and Communications Committee, and as a member of the Transit Committee and Executive Committee. Director Davies has played an integral role in projects like OC Flex and OC Bus 360°, and helped shape the most recent Long-Range Transportation Plan, which will ensure Orange County keeps moving for decades to come.

OC Flex Pilot in South O.C. Extended Through 2021

The OCTA board voted to extend the OC Flex microtransit pilot program through December 2021 in South Orange County, where the service has been well used in its first two years.

OC Flex has been operating since October 2018 and allows passengers to request a ride on-demand through the OC Flex mobile app within the service area, currently in portions of Mission Viejo, Aliso Viejo and Laguna Niguel.

The impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the OC Flex service has made it challenging to evaluate the performance of the pilot program. However, prior to March, ridership in South Orange County had been steadily increasing and key metrics such as subsidy per boarding continued to improve.

The proposed 14-month extension of OC Flex will allow OCTA to better evaluate the program's performance during and beyond the pandemic, as well as incorporate any future health and safety adjustments.

The service in portions of Huntington Beach and Westminster was suspended because of low ridership.

OCTA Continuing to Proactively Respond to COVID-19

OCTA continues to proactively respond to the coronavirus pandemic to safely provide transportation services and deliver capital projects while promoting practices to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

OC Bus service is continuing to operate day and night as scheduled, despite the state's limited stay-at-home order for counties in the purple tier of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which includes Orange County. Public transportation is considered an essential service and OC Bus will continue to be available for those who depend on it.

Face coverings continue to be required while riding and waiting for OC Bus. OCTA is continuing to provide free face coverings onboard all its buses. As of Nov. 13, more than 139,000 face coverings have been distributed via onboard dispensers.

For more information about OCTA's response to the pandemic, please visit [octa.net/Your-Safety-Is-Our-Priority](https://www.octa.net/Your-Safety-Is-Our-Priority).