

Meeting of Jan. 11, 2021

OCTA Board Elects Do as Chairman, Murphy as Vice Chair

At its first meeting of the year, the Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors unanimously elected Orange County's First District Supervisor Andrew Do as its chairman, and Mayor of Orange Mark A. Murphy as vice chair.

Chairman Do served as the OCTA board's vice chairman for the last year. He replaces outgoing Chairman Steve Jones, the Garden Grove mayor, who remains on the board.

Chairman Do was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 2015 and began serving on OCTA's board that same year. He has represented OCTA at the Metrolink Board of Directors since 2018.

Vice Chair Murphy has served on OCTA's board since 2017. Murphy has served as chair of OCTA's Regional Planning and Highways Committee, and as a member of the Executive Committee and SR-91 Advisory Committee.

OCTA Swears in New and Returning Board Members

The OCTA board swore in two new board members – Santa Ana Mayor Vicente Sarmiento and Mission Viejo Mayor Brian Goodell.

Director Sarmiento has been serving on the Santa Ana City Council since 2007. Director Goodell is a two-time Olympic swimming champion and has been serving on the Mission Viejo City Council since 2016..

In addition, the board swore in several returning directors:

- Andrew Do, Orange County First District Supervisor
- Mark A. Murphy, Mayor of Orange
- Joseph Muller, Mayor Pro Tem of Dana Point
- Tim Shaw, La Habra City Councilmember
- Donald P. Wagner, Orange County Third District Supervisor

SR-55 Project Receives \$140 million from CTC

The OCTA board accepted a \$140 million grant from the California Transportation Commission to help build the SR-55 Improvement Project between I-5 and I-405 in central Orange County.

The SR-55 Improvement Project is a critical component of voter-approved Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. The project will add a regular lane and a carpool lane in each direction between I-5 near Santa Ana and Tustin, and I-405 near Irvine and Costa Mesa. It will also add auxiliary lanes to help traffic smoothly enter and exit the freeway.

The CTC awarded the project \$115 million from the SB1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program and \$25 million from the SB1 Local Partnership Competitive Program. In total, state and federal funding will pay for 84% of the total project cost, with Measure M, also known as OC Go, funding 16%.

Construction on the project is expected to begin next year and improvements are anticipated to be finished in 2026.