

Meeting of April 12, 2021

OCTA Board Welcomes New Members

The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors welcomed one new member and selected a second to serve as a new Public Member on the 18-person board. Both will help guide transportation policy and programs for a balanced and sustainable transportation future.

Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, who was elected in March, was sworn in as a new member on the OCTA board. All five county supervisors also serve on the OCTA board. Foley served on the Costa Mesa City Council for 12 years and was that city's first directly elected mayor in 2018. Foley is an attorney, businesswoman and a married mother of two sons. She previously served on the Newport Mesa Unified School District board from 2010 to 2014.

The OCTA Board also selected Fountain Valley resident Tam Nguyen, president of Advance Beauty College and a community advocate, to serve as a public member on the board. Nguyen fills the seat of longtime public member Greg Winterbottom, who passed away last year.

Nguyen was selected from among 34 applicants and three finalists. He has a master's degree in business administration and a medical degree, and he is president of Advance Beauty College, which has campuses in Garden Grove and Laguna Hills. Nguyen fled war-torn Vietnam as a child with his family and is active in the Vietnamese-American community, as well as advocating for other underrepresented communities.

The OCTA board has two Public Members. They serve four-year terms and are eligible to seek re-selection for additional terms.

OCTA Continues to Deliver with Updated 10-year Measure M Plan

The OCTA board adopted the updated Measure M Next 10 plan, which outlines how projects will be delivered through 2030. The plan includes transit, street and freeway improvements, and protection for the environment, and accounts for impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2006, Orange County voters approved the renewal of the Measure M half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, now known as OC Go.

Because of economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, the program's revenue forecast decreased by \$1.8 billion from the last estimate and now is expected to generate \$11.6 billion through the life of the sales tax, through 2041.

Thanks to a history of conservative investments and fiscal responsibility, OCTA remains in a strong financial position to deliver on the promises made to voters in Measure M and deliver transportation benefits early.

Over the next 10 years, the plan will:

- Deliver 14 freeway project segments
- Continue annual endowment deposits for the environmental program

- Return 18 percent of overall funding to local agencies for transportation needs
- Provide annual grants to address street bottlenecks and gaps
- Fund ongoing synchronization of 2,200 traffic signals
- Improve Metrolink operations and stations
- Begin operation of OC Streetcar
- Enhance mobility for seniors and people with disabilities
- Continue support for localized transit options
- Provide grants for annual water cleanup

OCTA Selects Firm to Aid in OC Bus Restructuring

The OCTA board has selected Transportation Management and Design, Inc. to lead the way in developing recommendations for restructuring the OC Bus system.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has affected transit ridership significantly in Orange County and throughout the nation. As part of the continuous efforts to review and improve the OC Bus system, OCTA is looking for ways service could be restructured based on recent changes in demand, travel patterns, and funding.

One goal is to enhance efficiency, a focus in recent years by reallocating bus service from lower productivity areas to core service areas where transit resources yield additional ridership and improved productivity.

OCTA Advances SR-55 Improvement Project with Consultant Selection

OCTA's Board of Directors approved the selection of AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to provide construction management support services for the SR-55 Freeway Improvement Project between I-405 and I-5.

The four-mile long project will add regular lanes and carpool lanes in each direction between I-405 and I-5, and will also add auxiliary lanes between interchanges to ease congestion and improve the flow of traffic.

The project is part of Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go. It is also included in the Next 10 Delivery Plan, which aims to deliver transportation improvements promised to voters in Measure M as early as possible.

The final design package will be submitted to Caltrans this month, and is close to being ready for construction. The construction contract is expected to be advertised in December 2021.