

## **Meeting of May 23, 2022**

### **Board Approves Draft Plan Aimed at Improving Bus Service**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors approved a draft of the Making Better Connections study that is reimagining OC Bus service to better connect Orange County residents, workers and visitors to the places they need to be.

The draft service plan includes increasing bus service on high ridership routes, reducing wait times and simplifying the structure of bus routes. The draft plan is the result of the initial phase of public input and extensive staff analysis.

OCTA is now seeking more public input over the coming weeks with several community meetings and outreach at community events, along with an online and onboard questionnaire.

Bus riders can review the draft service plan and provide feedback at [OCBus.com/ConnectionsPlanner](https://ocbus.com/connectionsplanner).

After public and stakeholder input is addressed, a final service plan will be brought to the board for consideration in the fall. Once approved by the OCTA board, the improvements will be implemented as early as February.

### **Board Recognizes May Employees of the Month**

The OCTA board recognized three employees of the month for May.

The honors went to:

- Juan Marquez Martinez, a coach operator who works at the Santa Ana base and started his career at OCTA in 2017. Juan has outstanding safety, attendance and customer service records and achieved four years of safe driving in December.
- Paul Paretti, a journeyman mechanic at the Santa Ana base who joined OCTA in 2003. As a rebuild mechanic, Paul has an integral role working on the current project to replace the 2016 New Flyer original engines with the latest near-zero emission engines.
- Michael Le, a senior contract administrator, who joined OCTA in 2011 as an intern. Michael is an exemplary employee who continues to pursue professional development. He has completed OCTA's Early Career Academy as well as the inaugural Employee Rotation Program.

### **Minor Service Changes Coming to OC Bus June 12**

The OCTA board received an update on minor OC Bus service changes that will take effect on June 12.

OCTA implements schedule and route revisions to select OC Bus routes several times a year. In March 2020, an emergency service change was implemented to balance a sharp decline in ridership due to the state's stay-at-home order to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Since that time, OCTA has made numerous adjustments to bus service to support ridership growth, improve service and align with changes in traffic conditions.

The changes planned for June 12 will improve service on 20 OC Bus routes. These include schedule adjustments to bus routes that are typically impacted by summer beach traffic and school closures.

The next opportunity to make adjustments to OC Bus service will occur in October. In addition, future service changes will be informed by the Making Better Connections Study, which is identifying potential improvements to OC Bus service.