

Meeting of Oct. 24, 2022

Board Recognizes October Employees of the Month

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for October.

The honors went to:

- Horacio Castillo, a coach operator at the Garden Grove base who started his career at OCTA in 2003. Horacio recently assisted a passenger and her disabled daughter, setting a clear example of providing safe, courteous and reliable service.
- John San Esteban, a journeyman mechanic who began at OCTA in 2019. John is currently assigned to the third shift at the Santa Ana Base and has been selected to become a high voltage qualified mechanic. John's methodical approach and attention to detail continue to enable him to correctly troubleshoot any mechanical issues, proving a necessary service in maintaining OCTA buses.
- Ross Lew, a Senior Program Manager in the Capital Programs Department, leads the delivery of the OC Streetcar Project as well as the SR-55 Improvement Project. His critical and committed role as the OC Streetcar project manager continues to effectively drive the project toward completion. Ross is currently on track to achieving the next OC Streetcar milestone to reopen the entire Fourth Street by Thanksgiving.

OC Streetcar Construction 73% Complete

OCTA's board received a quarterly update on the OC Streetcar, which is now 73% complete.

The OC Streetcar will be Orange County's first modern electric streetcar, running along a 4.1-mile route between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove. The project will improve transit connectivity and accessibility, increase transit options, relieve congestion, and provide benefits to the community and traveling public.

The OC Streetcar will offer an additional affordable and convenient transit option, connecting with several of the busiest OC Bus routes and Metrolink commuter rail, in one of the nation's most densely populated areas, while producing zero emissions.

Progress made between July and September includes:

- The intersection at Fourth Street and Ross Street was reopened on Aug. 15, prior to the beginning of Nova Academy's school year
- The Fourth Street and Main Street intersection, and Santa Ana Boulevard and Main Street intersection, reopened on Aug. 29
- Seven streetcar vehicles are in the final stages of manufacturing and the eighth vehicle is in final assembly and will commence static and dynamic testing at the end of the year

The OC Streetcar is scheduled to begin operations in 2024. For more information visit

[OCTA.net/OCStreetcar](https://www.octa.net/OCStreetcar)

Board Approves Making Better Connections Plan

The OCTA board approved the final Making Better Connections plan, which is reimagining OC Bus service to better connect Orange County residents, workers and visitors to the places they want to travel.

The plan is the outcome of months of analysis of travel patterns and ridership trends, engagement with community stakeholders, and thoughtful redesign of routes to provide more efficient service for riders by expanding access to destinations, increasing frequency and extending hours of service.

OC Bus modifications in the plan include:

- Operate the top ten corridors every 10-15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Operate 35 routes in the core area on a frequency of 30 minutes or better
- Provide timed transfer hubs at the Brea Mall and Laguna Hills Transportation Center
- Implement a limited stop Bravo! Route 553 on Main Street
- Discontinue unproductive routes, including five freeway express routes that are currently suspended
- Operate all routes with a maximum frequency of 60 minutes, every day of the week

The final service plan will be communicated to the public through extensive marketing and outreach efforts. Implementation of the plan is expected to begin in early 2023 and will be completed over a two-year period.

For more information visit [OCTA.Net/BetterConnections](https://www.octa.net/betterconnections)