

## **Meeting of July 8, 2024**

### **OCTA Board Receives Measure M 10-Year Comprehensive Review Survey Results**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors was presented with the results of a study that was conducted to seek public feedback on Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation that was renewed by voters in 2006.

The Measure M 10-Year Comprehensive Review Survey asked voters to assess transportation concerns throughout Orange County, measure priorities among potential uses of Measure M funds, and gauge their awareness and perceptions of the measure and of OCTA.

This year's survey results were compared to results from a similar survey conducted in 2015.

Voters' priorities for Measure M funding remained the same over the past decade:

- Fix potholes and repair roadways.
- Coordinate traffic signals on major roadways to improve traffic flow.
- Close gaps, improve intersections, and reduce traffic congestion on major roads.
- Clean up runoff from roads to reduce water pollution to protect beaches.
- Provide transit services to seniors and the disabled at a discounted rate.

While the top funding priorities for Measure M remained the same, voters ranked other items as a higher priority compared to 2015. These include Metrolink services, access to rail, preserving and restoring open space, and optimizing the transportation system.

### **Board Receives Mid-Year Update on 2024 Initiatives**

The OCTA board received a mid-year progress report on the 2024 Board and CEO Initiatives and Action Plan.

The action plan, approved in January, consists of three board initiatives supported by nine CEO initiatives, and monitored through 107 milestones.

By the end of June, 31 of 107 milestones have been completed. Highlights include:

- The last of eight streetcar vehicles completed production. These vehicles will transport passengers on the future 4-mile OC Streetcar, which will connect the cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana.
- The second phase of public outreach began on the OC Transit Vision Master Plan, which aims to improve opportunities for the way people move throughout the county.
- The Board approved \$31.6 million in Measure M funding for 11 projects that improve streets and synchronize traffic signals throughout Orange County.
- All administrative employees received training emphasizing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
- The board approved the purchase of up to 204 driver barriers that will be installed on buses to help keep coach operators safe.

- The coach operators' collective bargaining agreement was ratified, recognizing employees' hard work and dedication, and ensuring that OCTA can continue providing safe, efficient and reliable bus service.
- The board approved a \$1.7 billion balanced budget for fiscal year 2024-25.
- In response to disruptions in south Orange County's passenger rail service due to landslides, OCTA initiated emergency measures and outlined strategies to address climate-related impacts on coastal rail infrastructure.

### **OCTA Continues Efforts to Improve Biking, Walking in O.C.**

The OCTA board received an update on how the agency works with cities, the public and other stakeholders to ensure that active transportation – including biking and walking – is a safe and accessible way to get around Orange County.

The update focused on the OC Connect project in Santa Ana and Garden Grove and the agency's E-Bike Safety Plan.

The OC Connect Project is looking to create 4 miles of safe biking and walking trails through Santa Ana and Garden Grove. The project is in the environmental phase and more information can be found at [octa.net/OCConnect](https://octa.net/OCConnect).

OCTA is also underway on its E-Bike Safety Plan that will develop recommendations to help make e-bikes a safe and reliable transportation option in Orange County. Initiatives include hosting e-bike safety rodeos at local schools and releasing safety videos targeted at younger riders. More information about these efforts is available at [octa.net/EBikes](https://octa.net/EBikes).