

Meeting of Dec. 9, 2024

December Employees of the Month Recognized

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors recognized three employees of the month for December.

- Felipe Michel, a coach operator, was honored for his professionalism and unwavering commitment to safety that was showcased through standout performances at both the Southern California Regional Bus Roadeo and the International Bus Roadeo.
- Juan Sanchez, a journeyman mechanic, was recognized for his problem-solving skills that helped successfully resolve an electrical issue on the OC Bus fleet, helping ensure service continues running smoothly and efficiently.
- Louis Zhao, an administrative employee, was recognized for his exceptional leadership that helped secure more than \$300 million in grants to safeguard the rail line in south Orange County.

OCTA Continues Delivering Measure M Promises

The OCTA board received a quarterly update on Measure M, highlighting significant progress on projects and programs funded by Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

Highlights include:

- The I-5 South County Improvements Project is on track to be completed in early 2025.
- More than \$24 million was disbursed to cities through the Local Fair Share program that provides flexible funding to repair roads, streets and improve pedestrian safety. To date, this program has provided more than \$748 million in funding.
- Efforts continued on the emergency coastal rail projects that are focused on addressing immediate threats to rail service in south Orange County.
- The OCTA board awarded more than \$42 million to fund 13 community transit services, including trolleys and shuttles.

For more information on Measure M, visit octa.net/MeasureM.

OCTA Advances Long-Term Transit Planning with OC Transit Vision

The OCTA board received updates on the OC Transit Vision Plan, a long-term effort to enhance and expand public transit services across Orange County.

Over the past 18 months, OCTA has actively engaged with the community, listening to feedback and exploring ways to improve the transit system.

The feedback helped identify 10 Transit Opportunity Corridors where transit demand is strongest, warranting increased service and investment. These corridors are being evaluated for potential enhancements to better connect communities and support regional mobility.

Key strategies under consideration include:

- Expanding bus routes to better serve underserved areas.
- Increasing bus frequency to provide more reliable service.
- Strengthening connections to major destinations such as employment centers, entertainment hubs and residential areas.
- Improving integration with Metrolink and other regional transportation hubs for seamless travel.

The final OC Transit Vision Plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with implementation strategies and priorities integrated into the 2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan. These efforts will guide future transit investments and improvements, ensuring OCTA continues to build a balanced and sustainable transportation network for Orange County.

To learn more, visit octa.net/OCTransitVision.