

## **Meeting of April 14, 2025**

### **OCTA Board Authorizes Emergency Rail Stabilization Work in South Orange County**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors authorized emergency actions to stabilize sections of railroad track threatened by coastal erosion and landslides in San Clemente, moving forward with urgent work to ensure continued passenger and freight rail operations through South Orange County.

The board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing OCTA CEO Darrell E. Johnson to take all necessary steps to protect a vital stretch of track through San Clemente, where recent landslides, beach erosion and degrading riprap pose a serious threat to the rail line. The rail is a vital connection between San Diego County and Orange County, and destinations further north, for passengers and freight and the movement of military assets.

The stabilization effort addresses four areas of vulnerability and includes:

- Placing up to 540,000 cubic yards of sand—approximately 95% of total materials—to restore beaches and absorb wave energy
- Repairing approximately 9,000 tons of riprap only where necessary to stabilize embankments and prevent bluff failure
- Installing a 1,400-foot catchment wall to retain debris from active landslides and restoring a pedestrian trail at Mariposa Point
- Constructing a 1,200-foot shoreline protection structure near San Clemente State Beach

For more information, visit [octa.net/RailEmergency](https://octa.net/RailEmergency).

### **OCTA Awards \$37.7 Million to Improve Local Streets**

The OCTA board awarded \$37.7 million for 15 projects that will improve traffic flow throughout Orange County.

The funds for these projects are made available through Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

More than \$25.7 million will go toward nine projects focused on improving busy streets and intersections in Anaheim, Irvine, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Santa Ana, Yorba Linda and the County of Orange.

The remaining \$12 million will be awarded to six projects in Anaheim, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel and Santa Ana that will synchronize traffic signals to ensure drivers spend less time sitting at red lights.

For more information on Measure M, visit [octa.net/MeasureM](https://octa.net/MeasureM).

### **OCTA Making it Safer, Easier to Bike and Walk in Orange County**

The OCTA board received an update on how the agency is making it safer and more accessible to bike and walk throughout Orange County.

Highlights include:

- **E-Bike Safety Action Plan:** OCTA completed a comprehensive plan to support safer e-bike use in Orange County. The plan outlines strategies related to infrastructure, education, legislation, crash data and ridership trends. OCTA is now exploring ways to implement the plan with local partners. More information is available at [octa.net/ebike](https://octa.net/ebike).
- **Next STEP Project:** In partnership with the Orange County Health Care Agency, OCTA launched a \$2.1 million program focused on improving bike and pedestrian safety near 25 elementary schools. The project includes walk audits, traffic data collection and education activities. More information is available at [octa.net/Step](https://octa.net/Step).
- **Community Outreach:** OCTA continues to attend events across the county to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. In the past year, the project team has attended 14 events and has distributed more than 2,400 safety items and nearly 2,000 pieces of educational materials.
- **OC Connect Project:** OCTA is completing the environmental phase for a proposed 4-mile bike and pedestrian trail connecting Garden Grove and Santa Ana. More information is available at [octa.net/OCConnect](https://octa.net/OCConnect).
- **Bicycle Count Data:** OCTA is updating its bike count database with information from 450 locations across the county. This data will help guide future active transportation planning and is expected to be available by summer 2025.

For more on OCTA's active transportation efforts, visit [octa.net/active](https://octa.net/active).