



Meeting of May 10, 2010

Signs Point To Stability For FY 2010-2011 Budget

The OCTA Board of Directors got its first look at the proposed budget for 2010-2011 during the annual budget workshop and all indications are that OCTA's finances will stabilize after two years of experiencing significant financial hardships.

The proposed \$1.2 billion budget forecasts a stabilizing economic environment with a slight growth in sales tax revenue and the return of state funding for transit operations with no further reductions in bus service.

The original 20-year Measure M program will be completed during the fiscal year and the final freeway project, the I-5 Gateway, will be finished. The Metrolink service expansion will get under way and the collection of Measure M2 sales tax, a 30-year program for transportation improvements will begin.

During the coming weeks, staff members will present the proposed budget to all of OCTA's committees with the public hearing for the board to adopt the budget scheduled for June 14. The fiscal year begins on July 1.

Measure M Quarterly Report Indicates Sales Tax Increase



Measure M, the half-cent transportation sales tax approved by Orange County voters in 1990, resulted in the allocation of more than \$3.3 billion for countywide transportation improvements since its inception.

The final Measure M freeway project, the Santa Ana Freeway (I-5) Gateway is 87 percent complete. As part of the Metrolink service expansion, design work for the new

parking structure at the Tustin Metrolink station is 97 percent complete.

Unlike prior quarterly reports, which predicted declining revenues, this quarter includes an updated Measure M revenue forecast that indicates a revenue increase of \$428,000 as compared with December 2009.

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OCTA Looking To Fund Bicycle, Pedestrian, Landscaping Projects

Approximately \$12.4 million in grant funding is available on a competitive basis to cities during the next three years for projects that will improve walkways, bikeways and landscaping throughout the county.

OCTA will distribute the Transportation Enhancement funds, made available through the Federal Transportation Act, to qualifying Orange County cities. Cities and the county have until June 9 to submit projects for consideration. The project applications will be reviewed by an advisory panel that will make recommendations to the board for a final funding decision scheduled for August.



In the last 10 years, OCTA has awarded approximately \$47.8 million in Transportation Enhancement funds toward 98 projects.

Board Honors Director Brown For Golden Star Award



The board recognized Director Art Brown, also mayor of Buena Park, for receiving the Golden Star Award from partners Amtrak, Caltrans and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority. Brown was presented the Golden Star award for his commitment to increasing passenger rail service and enhancing rail safety in California during National Train Day at Los Angeles Union Station on May 8.