

Meeting of May 14, 2018

Workshop Held to Discuss Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget

The OCTA board held a budget workshop to discuss the proposed \$1.29 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19. The budget presented is balanced and aligns with the agency's long-term plans and the goals and objectives of the agency.

The budget, including revenues from Measure M, and other local, state and federal funding, will guide spending for bus operations, rail, motorist services, freeway and street improvements and the 91 Express Lanes. The budget also includes \$27.5 million of Senate Bill 1 funding, including \$6.8 million for streets and roads and \$19.2 million for the bus program.

Some large capital expenditures anticipated include \$184.7 million for the OC Streetcar and \$201.7 million for the I-405 Improvement Project. Service levels for bus fixed routes will remain the same as last fiscal year with no fare increase proposed. Efforts to sustain and enhance ridership will be continued through OC Bus 360°. The pilot project, OC Flex, an on-demand, door-to-door shuttle service and BRAVO 529 express service will be added to help deliver transportation options that best match the varying needs of the public.

The proposed budget will return to the board on June 11, for a public hearing and directors' consideration.

June Bus Service Changes

The board approved the June bus service changes as part of OCTA's ongoing effort to maximize the efficiency of Orange County's bus system. As part of OC Bus 360°, the comprehensive action plan developed to help sustain bus ridership, the upcoming June service change makes minor adjustments to correspond with summer demand. The seasonal changes are designed to improve connections and on-time performance.

Along with the minor schedule adjustments, additional service will be added to Routes 1 and 89 during peak beach-traffic times. Route 1, for instance, will now stay on Pacific Coast Highway instead of making a stop at the Laguna Beach bus station.

The Orange County Fair Express also returns this year to transport thousands of people via OC Bus to the OC Fair. The OC Fair Express service will consist of nine shuttles that operate across the county to deliver people to the fair on weekends, helping them avoid traffic and save money in the process. This year, Route 691 from South Orange County will be relocated to the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Metrolink station instead of the Junipero Serra Park and Ride in San Juan Capistrano.

Bus service changes are routinely made three times a year in February, June and October to ensure riders are getting the most efficient level of service. Riders will be notified of route changes via extensive public outreach prior to the changes being implemented. For more information on the June 2018 service changes, visit ocbus.com.

Beach Boulevard Study Rolls Forward

The board approved entering into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to provide professional services for a study of the Beach Boulevard corridor that runs from La Habra to Huntington Beach. The 21-mile corridor carries up to 83,000 cars daily.

After OCTA's 2010 Central County Corridor Major Investment Study, recommendations were made to further study the Beach Boulevard corridor because of the challenges with intersection grade separations and with widening the street. The collaborative study between Caltrans, Anaheim, Buena Park, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, La Habra, Stanton, Westminster and Orange County, will look at enhancing the way people move through this stretch using multiple transportation options. .

Some objectives of the \$345,000 study include improving connectivity between existing and planned transportation hubs and popular destinations, improving transportation options, and enhancing infrastructure in the corridor for pedestrians and cyclists.