

Meeting of October 23, 2017

October Employees of the Month Honored

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for October.

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Orlando Mayorga, Coach Operator
- Ha Nguyen, Maintenance
- Lesley Hill, Administration

OC Flex Pilot Program Gets Green Light

The board approved the concept of a one-year micro-transit pilot program. Micro-transit provides an on-demand shared ride service with short wait times and curb-to-curb pickup and drop-off.

The pilot program is part of the OC Bus 360° initiative to improve bus ridership and provide a range of transit services that better fit the needs of the public.

The pilot program will be offered in two zones – one in Huntington Beach and one in Aliso Viejo, Laguna Niguel and Mission Viejo. These areas were picked among seven originally considered based on a number of factors including transit usage, demographics and customers requesting service in areas where it had been reduced or eliminated.

The service areas chosen as part of the pilot program include six to eight square miles with hubs, which are major activity centers for shopping, entertainment and employment, and they can connect to other transit options.

Goals for implementing micro-transit include providing public transit in areas where there is low-demand for traditional bus service while reducing operating and capital costs and reducing vehicle miles traveled.

To gauge the success of the program, OCTA will measure productivity and cost-effectiveness, and the number of shared rides and connecting transit trips, as well as customer satisfaction. The program will cost approximately \$1.4 million, which includes the purchase of four wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

The service is scheduled to launch in summer 2018.

Board OKs Revised Bus Service Changes Based on Public Input

The board approved the February 2018 Bus Service Plan, taking into account revisions made in response to 376 comments received from the public after the initial plan was released.

OCTA adjusts bus service three times a year to ensure bus routes serve the county most efficiently. The February changes are part of the OC Bus 360° initiative to reallocate existing resources to areas where there is the highest demand for ridership.

The planned changes for February were discussed at three public outreach meetings and a public hearing at a previous OCTA board meeting.

Major changes include:

- Improving weekday peak frequencies to 30 minutes on routes 56, 89, 90, and 91.
- Extending Route 59 to The District at Tustin Legacy and improving frequency on weekends.
- Improving weekend frequencies on routes 29, 43, 50, 53, 54, 60, and 91.
- Eliminating Sunday service on route 177.
- Eliminating bus trips with less than eight boardings in the morning or late evening on routes 30, 46, 50, 86, 90 and 153.
- Eliminating Express routes 212 and 216.
- Reducing or eliminating service on some lower-ridership segments of routes 463 and 794.

OCTA is implementing a comprehensive outreach program to notify riders of the changes before they go into effect in February.

Metrolink Fiscal Year 2016-17 Performance Report Presented

A report on Metrolink weekday and weekend ridership, revenue, and on-time performance for Fiscal Year 2016-17 was presented to the board.

The three Orange County Metrolink lines served 4.5 million people this year, a half-percent increase from last year. Fullerton, Irvine and Tustin stations continue to have the highest weekday boardings.

Overall, ridership for Fiscal Year 2016-17 totaled 11.1 million riders, a 3.8 percent decrease from the previous fiscal year.

Revenue from the three OC lines totaled \$35.9 million, which accounted for 43 percent of the total \$82.9 revenue system-wide.

Metrolink trains operated on-time 94.2 percent of the time, a 5.4 percent increase from last fiscal year.

Metrolink service enhancements included:

- Special football trains to Los Angeles Rams games, doubling Sunday ridership on game days.
- The Angels Express trains ran for the seventh year and provided rides for 54 home games this season. The Angels Express is funded through a grant by the Mobile Source Reduction Review Committee.
- The mobile ticketing app, introduced in 2016, has resulted in 23 percent of Metrolink's passengers purchasing tickets electronically.