

Meeting of Oct. 24, 2016

Employees of the month for September honored

The Orange County Transportation Authority board honored three employees of the month for October.

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Rhonda Banks, Coach Operator
- Rodolfo Sanchez, Maintenance
- Bryan Vonada, Administration,

OCTA Awarded Grant for Purchasing Low-Emission Engines

The OCTA Board accepted a grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District, to help with the purchase of 98 new near-zero emission engines.

The \$1.47 million grant awarded by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC), will go toward the \$7.1 million purchase of new Cummins compressed natural gas engines. The engines will be installed in OCTA buses with more than 250,000 miles that are due for replacement. These natural gas-powered engines will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by transportation. The engines are 90 percent cleaner than the existing engines. When coupled with renewable natural gas, the buses will run as clean as an electric bus.

Metrolink Weekend Ridership in Orange County is on the Rise

The board received an annual report on Metrolink's ridership and revenue for the fiscal year 2015-16.

Three of Metrolink's seven lines serve Orange County. These three lines serve 11 Orange County stations and carry an average of more than 15,000 daily passengers.

Ridership on Metrolink's Orange County lines has decreased by 5.3 percent compared to fiscal year 2014-15. Weekend ridership however, has seen an increase of 1.3 percent since last year, reaching a total of 378,000 weekend passengers.

The Orange County Line, which runs between Oceanside and Los Angeles Union Station, continued to have the highest farebox recovery rate at 67.4 percent, exceeding the system-wide average of about 42 percent. The three lines serving Orange County averaged 91.2 percent on-time performance.

Other significant Metrolink updates include:

- Mobile ticketing launched in March 2016, allowing riders to purchase the ticket on a smart phone.

- Metrolink began receipt of 20 low-emission locomotives, exercised an additional option for 19 more.
- Special Angels Express Metrolink service has been successful this year, exceeding 45,000 boardings for the 2016 season.