

Meeting of Nov. 26, 2018

November Employees of the Month Honored

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

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Cesar Apatiga, Coach Operator
- Liem Nguyen, Maintenance
- Eric Carlson, Administration

Outgoing Board Members Honored for Service to OCTA

The OCTA staff and board bid farewell to three outgoing board members and recognized them for their contributions to improving transportation in Orange County.

Tustin Mayor Al Murray has served on the OCTA board for six years. Director Murray has supported Orange County's regional interests through his work as vice chairman of the SR-91 Advisory Committee and of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor board. Under his leadership as chairman of the OCTA Transit Committee, Murray helped reshape Orange County's bus system through his contributions to OC Bus 360°.

Lori Donchak, who also serves on the San Clemente City Council, has served on the OCTA board for five years, including as chair and as vice chair. Her contributions include working with San Clemente businesses and residents to prepare for and work through construction of the now completed I-5 South project. As chair of the Environmental Oversight Committee, Donchak helped identify, secure and forever protect Orange County's wildlife and habitat.

Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait has served on the OCTA board for five years. Director Tait has been very helpful in advancing Measure M and distributing Measure M funds to cities and the county. He has supported Orange County's interests regionally through his work on the OC Bridges program and the improvements to SR-57 and SR-91. Tait has also contributed to the reorganization of Orange County's bus system through the OC Bus 360° initiative.

OC Bus 360° Keeping Orange County Moving

The OCTA board received an update on OC Bus 360°, an initiative launched in 2016 to improve bus service and increase the efficiency of bus travel in response to shifting travel patterns and declining ridership, a trend experienced by transit agencies nationwide.

Efforts have included implementing new and faster bus routes, reallocating bus service to areas with higher demand and rolling out new technology, including mobile ticketing and real-time bus arrival

information. In addition, OCTA launched OC Flex in October, a one-year microtransit pilot program in two areas of the county.

Ridership on improved bus routes has increased 3.7 percent between April and June, compared to ridership between January and March. Ridership has also increased slightly compared to last year, while nationwide bus ridership has decreased by nearly 1.5 percent.

A new limited-stop bus service, Bravo! Route 529, is expected to launch in February as part of OC Bus 360°. The new service will operate on Beach Boulevard from the Fullerton Park-and-Ride to the Goldenwest Transportation Center through the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster.