

Meeting of Nov. 23, 2015

Board recognizes Employees of the Month for November

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

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- David Madrid, coach operator
- Ryan Nguyen from maintenance
- Monica Verduzco from the transit department

Bus service change plan enters public comment phase

The OCTA board released a draft plan for public review that would reallocate bus service throughout the county.

The plan is part of OC Bus 360°, a strategy to better meet the needs of Orange County bus riders. Under the proposal, 92 percent of bus riders in Orange County would see improved service or no change in service if the draft plan is implemented next year. The overall strategy would shift service from low-performing routes to areas where there is higher demand to offer passengers more frequent and faster service.

The plan is expected to increase ridership by 1.6 million boardings during the next three years and reverse a trend of declining ridership. Since 2008, OCTA has lost more than 20 million boardings, a reduction of 30 percent.

Detailed booklets with surveys will be placed on buses, passengers will be able to comment online at www.octa.net and four community meetings are set to present the plan. Comments will be reviewed and considered as a final plan is developed prior to the board considering it during a public meeting in January.

OCTA now accepting community circulator proposals

OCTA is accepting city project proposals for grants to develop local bus services – like shuttles and bus trolleys – that complement regional bus and rail services.

The program is funded through Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements that was renewed by Orange County voters in 2006.

Project applications are due by Feb. 29 and based on selection criteria, projects will be submitted for board approval by June.

The initial call for projects resulted in five projects being funded \$9.8 million in June of 2013. Cities are required to provide a 10 percent match to receive the funding and must meet minimum ridership requirements.