



2019

A PROGRESS REPORT ON OCTA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY



INTRODUCTION

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is responsible for delivering a balanced and sustainable transportation system for Orange County and its 34 cities and 3.2 million residents.

In 2019, the OCTA Board of Directors established six strategic initiatives to continue to deliver on its promise of keeping Orange County moving by implementing projects, programs and services through consensus-driven planning, public accountability and transparency.

This report is framed around these six initiatives and highlights just a few of the projects and programs completed by OCTA throughout the year to improve Orange County's multi-modal transportation network including freeways and express lanes, bus and rail transit, ridesharing and active transportation.



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FREEWAY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Continue advancing the I-405 Improvement Project

- Opened the Slater Avenue bridge in August – the first new bridge on the \$1.9 billion design-build I-405 Improvement Project.
- Twelve bridges are under construction of the more than 18 bridges that will be built, replaced or widened.
- Completed approximately 90 percent of the project design.

Start construction on I-5 between El Toro Road and SR-73

- Initiated construction on the I-5 Freeway Widening Project – in partnership with Caltrans and local cities – that will deliver new general-purpose lanes, extend carpool lanes and improve interchanges in south Orange County.



BUS AND RAIL CAPITAL PROJECTS

Improve the Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station

- Finalized design plans for the station with groundbreaking on track for mid-2020.

Develop parking options for Orange transit riders

- Constructed a new multi-story parking structure in collaboration with the City of Orange to serve Metrolink riders and other visitors.

Increase mobility options at the Fullerton Transportation Center

- Revitalized the Fullerton Transportation Center by replacing a pedestrian bridge with two elevators.

Enhance rail efficiency in South Orange County

- Started construction on a passing siding project between Laguna Niguel and San Juan Capistrano to allow trains to pass each other without stopping, thereby reducing delays and increasing safety.

Move forward on Transit Security and Operations Center (TSOC)

- Awarded the contract for design of the modern TSOC facility that will house operational and security functions.



Set priorities for 2020 State Transportation Improvement Program

- Submitted nearly \$204 million in funding for seven projects between fiscal year 2020-21 and fiscal year 2024-25.

Enhance OC Go (Measure M) revenue utilization

- Received a revenue forecast of \$13.4 billion for Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements through 2041, a \$300 million increase from last year.
- Combined this strong revenue position with efficient project delivery to advance five additional OC Go freeway projects through construction.

\$13.4B 
through 2041

Deploy OC Go funding

- Awarded more than \$8.5 million for regional capacity and signal synchronization projects to reduce traffic congestion.
- Improved water quality in Orange County from transportation-generated pollution by awarding more than \$2 million for 11 projects through the Environmental Cleanup Program.

Support the I-405 Improvement Project

- Initiated a successful bond offering that secured approximately \$400 million in revenue to support the I-405 Improvement Project.

Advocate for State and Federal legislation supporting transportation funding

- Supported online sales tax legislation that was signed into law, resulting in additional projected revenues for OC Go.
- Supported a tax incentive enacted into law that will reduce the cost of procuring zero-emission buses, potentially saving as much as \$80,000 per bus.
- Led efforts to streamline the TIFIA loan program, and nearly all OCTA recommendations were included in draft federal surface transportation legislation.



Reexamine OCTA's Transit Master Plan

- Updated this guiding document for corridor studies with the most recent transit technology information.

Launch South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study

- Initiated work on this two-year study to identify solutions for south Orange County's current and future mobility needs.
- Retained consultant teams for technical work and outreach.
- Study is underway with completion expected in late 2021.



Deliver innovative transportation strategies and technologies

- Interviewed 12 different transportation technology providers to gain more knowledge about new and emerging technologies and spur transformation.

Reach agreement on 91/241 Express Connector

- Partnered with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) and Caltrans to establish the framework and timeline for a tolled connector between the 91 Express Lanes and the 241 Toll Road.



Collaborate with regional partners

- Led the development of the SR-91 Implementation Plan – working with RCTC, Caltrans and TCA – resulting in the prioritization and advancement of four key projects on the 91.



Interchange Project



Interchange Improvements



Corridor Operations Project



Express Connector Project

- Initiated the Connect OC-LA Study in June to develop recommendations on how to better connect transit between Orange County and Los Angeles County.



- Worked in close coordination with LA Metro, Metrolink, Foothill Transit, Norwalk Transit, Long Beach Transit and Gateway Cities to study transit connections between the two counties.

Collaborate with Caltrans on freeway improvements

- Worked with Caltrans to deliver OC Go projects through the project development process – with five projects in the environmental phase, three in design and three in construction representing a \$3.6 billion investment in transportation improvements.

\$3.6B *in transportation improvements*



Continue OC Flex

- Recorded nearly 40,000 boardings during the first year of the OC Flex pilot program – Orange County’s first app-based, on-demand microtransit service.

Launch Bravo! 529 service

- Implemented new rapid bus service on Beach Boulevard, saving an average of 10 minutes per trip for riders.

Advance the OC Streetcar Project

- Utility relocation of sewer and water lines, storm drains, electricity and gas lines is underway with completion of that project phase scheduled for early 2020.
- Completed the foundation and pier walls for a new 350-foot-long bridge across the Santa Ana River.



Incorporate hydrogen fuel-cell technology

- Completed construction of a hydrogen fueling station.
- Purchased nine additional hydrogen fuel-cell buses, for a total of 10, to prepare for meeting state regulations for zero-emission buses.

Expand the College Pass Program

- Launched the College Pass Program at Golden West College and Fullerton College allowing those students to travel on all OC Bus routes for free.

Establish new connections with Metrolink

- Introduced two new iShuttle routes to provide service to Irvine businesses from the Irvine and Tustin Metrolink stations.



Enhance safety protocol

- Established an annual safety training schedule to ensure employees are compliant with state and federal training requirements.
- Produced a Safety Core Value video.
- Posted daily safety updates on OCTA's internal website.

Enrich coach operator safety programs

- Tested pilot programs to help protect coach operators and deter unsafe behavior.

Develop a Safety Management System

- Initiated a Safety Management System approach that complies with the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan – a new federal requirement.

Enhance active transportation safety

- Developed a Safe Routes to School Action Plan to improve the safety of youth walking and bicycling to school.
- Launched a Bicycle Safety Training Program to provide bike and pedestrian safety.

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550 S. MAIN STREET • ORANGE, CA 92868 • WWW.OCTA.NET