

## **Meeting of May 13, 2019**

### **Workshop Held to Discuss Proposed FY 2019-20 Budget**

The OCTA board held a budget workshop to discuss the proposed \$1.5 billion balanced budget for fiscal year 2019-20.

Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go, will continue to fund improvements to freeways and streets throughout the county, along with multiple transit programs. Included in the proposed budget is \$366.4 million to help fund freeway improvements on I-405, I-5, SR-55, SR-57 and SR-91, \$159 million to improve Orange County's roads and \$48.5 million for OC Streetcar construction.

Efforts to improve transit service will continue through OC Bus 360°, the agency's comprehensive effort aimed at reshaping transit service throughout the county. Bus service levels are proposed to increase by 1.4 percent to account for the first full year of Bravo! Route 529 and no fare increase is proposed. Also included in the FY 2019-20 budget is \$219.8 million for the purchase of replacement buses for approximately half of the fixed-route and paratransit fleets.

The proposed budget will return to the board on June 10 for a public hearing and for consideration by the board.

### **Board Approves June Bus Service Changes**

The Orange County Transportation Authority board approved the June OC Bus service changes as part of the agency's ongoing effort to better serve the county's bus riders.

The changes, to take place on June 9, primarily consist of minor schedule changes to bus routes to address summer demand, road construction, coach operator input and riders' requests for improved connections.

The OC Fair Express also returns in July to transport thousands of people directly to the fair, helping them avoid traffic and save money in the process. The OC Fair Express service will operate on weekends from nine locations across the county with a frequency of between 15 and 40 minutes, depending on the route. This service carried nearly 80,000 passengers in 2018.

Bus service changes are routinely made three times a year in February, June and October to ensure riders are getting the most efficient level of service. More extensive route changes are expected to occur in October and February as part of OC Bus 360° and community hearings to receive feedback on those proposed changes are scheduled for later this month.

For more information on the service changes, visit [ocbus.com](http://ocbus.com).

## **SR-91 Improvement Project Advances**

Plans for improvements to SR-91 between SR-55 and Lakeview Avenue progressed as the OCTA board released a request for proposals to retain a consultant to design the project.

These improvements are one segment of the Measure M SR-91 Improvement Project that will speed up traffic along the freeway between SR-57 and SR-55 and reduce weaving and merging between successive ramps at several interchanges. Measure M, also known as OC Go, is Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

The project, funded through net excess 91 Express Lanes toll revenues, will add a regular lane in the eastbound direction between La Palma Avenue and SR-55. It will also make improvements in the westbound direction between Acacia Street and La Palma Avenue and between SR-55 and Lakeview Avenue. The project includes reconstruction of the La Palma Avenue bridge and reconstruction of the Kraemer Boulevard/Glassell Street, Tustin Avenue and Lakeview Avenue interchanges.

The project is divided into three separate segments. The board is expected to solicit design services for the second segment, which extends from La Palma Avenue to SR-55, in September. The request for proposals for the third segment, which extends from Acacia Street to La Palma Avenue, is expected to be released in January.