

Meeting of Jan. 9, 2023

OCTA Appoints New and Returning Board Members

The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors swore in three new board members, along with several returning directors.

The three new board members are Orange City Councilmember Jon Dumitru, Dana Point Mayor Pro Tem Jamey Federico, and Irvine Mayor Farrah N. Khan.

Director Dumitru served as an Orange City Councilmember from 2004 to 2012 and was elected to represent Orange's second district on the city council in November 2020. Director Federico was elected to the Dana Point City Council in November 2018. Director Khan was elected as Mayor of Irvine in 2020. In addition, the board swore in several returning directors:

- Doug Chaffee, Orange County Fourth District Supervisor
- Katrina Foley, Orange County Fifth District Supervisor
- Patrick Harper, Fountain Valley City Councilmember
- Fred Jung, Fullerton Mayor
- Vincente Sarmiento, Orange County Second District Supervisor

Board Reviews 2022 Initiatives and Action Plan

The OCTA board received a year-end report summarizing OCTA's progress on advancing the 2022 Board and CEO Initiatives and Action Plan.

The action plan, approved in January 2022, consists of three board initiatives supported by nine CEO initiatives and monitored through 96 milestones.

At the conclusion of 2022, 80 of the 96 milestones were completed. The remainder have been carried over to 2023 and adjusted due to schedule conflicts and other unanticipated challenges.

Highlights include:

- OCTA approved changes to the OC Bus service plan through the Making Better Connections Study that will result in more frequent service, better connections and more hours of service for the majority of bus riders beginning in early 2023.
- OCTA began operating two battery-electric buses in July, and the agency received seven more in December.
- OCTA approved investing \$3.1 million in Measure M funding to improve water quality throughout Orange County.
- A new collective bargaining agreement with the union representing OCTA's maintenance employees was approved in December.
- OCTA's College Pass Program was expanded to all nine community colleges in Orange County, allowing students to ride OC Bus for free.

OCTA's Zero-Emission Bus Pilots Creating a Cleaner O.C.

The OCTA board received an update on the agency's zero-emission bus pilot program, which is one component of OCTA's efforts to develop a balanced and sustainable transportation system to improve air quality in Orange County.

OCTA is testing both hydrogen fuel-cell electric buses and battery-electric buses. The pilot programs are helping the agency determine which technology, or mix of technologies, will perform best on Orange County streets.

OCTA's hydrogen fuel-cell electric bus pilot was initiated in February 2022. Since being deployed, all 10 fuel-cell electric buses have achieved a combined 900,000 miles in service.

The battery-electric bus pilot was partially initiated in July 2022 with two buses in operation. Those two buses have totaled 19,000 miles in service.

OCTA's efforts align with the California Air Resources Board's Innovative Clean Transit regulation, which requires transit agencies to begin purchasing zero-emission buses in 2023, with the goal of transitioning to full zero-emission bus fleets by 2040.