

Meeting of May 22, 2023

Board Recognizes May Employees of the Month

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

The honors went to:

- Kari Jackson, a coach operator at the Santa Ana base who started at OCTA in 1999. She is a model coach operator who provides riders with safe, courteous and reliable service on a daily basis. Kari achieved 21 years of safe driving last year.
- Andy Xiong, an electronic technician who joined OCTA as a service worker in 1984. Andy always looks for ways to increase efficiency in the electronics shop and goes above and beyond, demonstrating continuous support to all members of the Santa Ana base.
- Rachel Mak, a financial analyst who started as an intern in 2018 and was hired full time in 2019. Her analysis on the refinancing of the federal TIFIA loan for the I-405 Improvement Project played an integral role in saving OCTA more than \$200 million. Rachel navigated the unique process of administering the TIFIA loan funding successfully and admirably.

Board Receives Update on I-5 South County Improvements

The OCTA board received an update on the ongoing I-5 South County Improvements Project, which is now approximately 70% complete.

The I-5 South County Improvements Project, which began in 2019, is relieving traffic and improving travel times between SR-73 and El Toro Road.

The \$600 million project through San Juan Capistrano, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills, Lake Forest, and Laguna Woods will add a regular lane in each direction and extend a second carpool lane between Alicia Parkway and El Toro Road. It will also reconstruct the Avery Parkway and La Paz Road interchanges, along with the Los Alisos Boulevard overcrossing and various auxiliary lanes and on- and off-ramps.

Recent project milestones include:

- Construction between SR-73 and Oso Parkway is 73% complete.
- Reconstruction of the Avery Parkway interchange is in its final stage.
- Construction between Oso and Alicia parkways is 84% complete.
- Construction between Alicia Parkway and El Toro Road is 58% complete.
- The opening of the first half of the reconstructed Los Alisos bridge, along with the demolition of the second half, is scheduled for late May.