

Meeting of June 12, 2023

OCTA Approves 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors approved a \$1.7 billion balanced budget for fiscal year 2023-24 following a public hearing during its meeting.

The 2023-24 budget will make significant improvements to transit infrastructure, with 52% of the budget being invested in public transit. The budget represents a \$48 million increase from the previous year's budget, including an expected increase in sales tax receipts from Measure M, the voter-approved half-cent sales tax, also known as OC Go.

Major initiatives for the budget include advancing capital improvement projects on freeways, including I-405, I-5 in south county, SR-55, SR-57 and SR-91. These projects, and more, prioritize safety, sustainability, and efficiency in Orange County transportation.

Board Declares Emergency Resolution for San Clemente Tracks

OCTA's board voted to declare an emergency to authorize necessary actions to protect the railroad tracks in San Clemente due to recent landslides.

OCTA and Metrolink will work together to develop and implement protective measures along the rail line, with possible solutions including a temporary barrier wall at the bottom of the hillside slope. The purpose of the temporary wall would be to keep any additional debris from the slide from interfering with safe passenger rail movement on the track.

Metrolink is expected to hire a contractor to design and build the wall on an emergency basis to speed up construction. The size of the wall will be determined in collaboration with the engineering contractor.

Currently, Metrolink regional passenger rail service is operating as far south as San Juan Capistrano on weekends, while weekday Metrolink service will continue to operate only as far south as the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Station until further notice.

For updates on service, visit metrolinktrains.com/service-update and pacificsurfliner.com/alerts.

I-405 Improvement Project Now 95% Complete

The OCTA board received an update on the ongoing I-405 Improvement Project, which is now approximately 95% complete.

Construction on the I-405 Improvement Project has been progressing, with 11 of the 18 bridge replacements complete and open to traffic, and the remaining seven expected to be completed in late 2023. In addition, more than 95% of the walls, ramps and paving have been completed.

The 16-mile I-405 Improvement Project is the largest highway project under construction in the state. It is adding a regular lane in each direction of I-405 between Costa Mesa and the Orange County border with Los Angeles County, along with a second lane that will become part of the 405 Express Lanes. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in late 2023.

Learn more at octa.net/405improvement.