

Meeting of Feb. 12, 2018

Employees of the Year Honored

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of year for 2017.

Resolutions were presented to:

- Manuel Vargas, Coach Operator
- Patrick Courchaine, Maintenance
- Lesley Hill, Administration

The employees of the year are selected from among the employees of the month that were honored throughout 2017 and are chosen for their outstanding contributions.

Transit Master Plan Sets Vision for Future of Transit

The OC Transit Vision Plan, following 18 months of development, has been completed and approved by the board. The Transit Master Plan (TMP), also known as the OC Transit Vision, is a 20-year plan focused on enhancing and expanding public-transit services in Orange County through integrated bus, rail and paratransit options.

The board gave feedback on potential next steps of the plan, including connections between the Anaheim resort and John Wayne Airport, connections between Orange County and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) rail system, and geographic equity recommendations.

The OC Transit Vision survey helped determine the priority of transit improvements by gathering feedback from both transit riders and those who don't currently use public transit.

The I-5 corridor was ranked most important along with Main Street, Beach Boulevard, State Route 55 and Westminster Avenue/ Bristol Street.

Along with the transit opportunity lines, other priorities based on the survey feedback include more Metrolink service, bus service, express service, special-event service and shared on-demand service. Included in the TMP are short-term recommendations, to be considered for implementation over the next five years, include:

- Implement the OC Flex Micro-transit pilot program in Bolsa-Dorado and Aliso-Mission zones (2018).
- Issue Project V call for projects for seasonal, special-event and year-round community transit services (2018).
- Develop and implement strategies for incremental improvements to existing and future Rapid Bus (Bravo!) routes (2018-2019).
- Analyze regional bus-rail connections as part of the upcoming Los Angeles–Orange County Transportation Study (2018-2019).

- Conduct Transit Corridor Study of Bristol Street from initial OC Streetcar alignment to South Coast Metro area (2018-2020),
- Implement Beach Boulevard Rapid Bus (2019).
- Expand OC Flex (2019, pending successful pilot).
- Conduct freeway BRT Network Study (2019-2020).
- Begin operations of initial OC Streetcar service and implement Bus-Rail Interface Plan (2020).
- Improve service on major, local, and community routes to meet Transit Investment Framework Guidelines (ongoing, as resources are available).

The medium (15 years) and long-term (15-plus years) recommendations are to be considered in the upcoming Long Range Transportation Plan.

Development of 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan Continues

The 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is being developed to address changing travel conditions in the county and to meet future demands. The plan analyzes current plans and policies, identifies new initiatives and priorities and defines projects in the regional transportation plan.

By 2040, it's projected that there will be a 10 percent growth in population and 17 percent growth in employment in Orange County. The LRTP will serve as input to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Through 2040, 84 percent of funding is committed to projects such as Measure M2 Projects and Programs, the Federal Transportation Improvement Program, maintaining transit service levels and maintaining motorist service programs. The discretionary projects proposed are implementing OC Transit Vision, enhancing Metrolink service, implementing planned bikeways network and freeway/roadway projects within the available right-of-way.

The plan considers stakeholder input, revenue forecasts, current commitments, population and employment forecasts and key issues. Stakeholder input is being analyzed and will be further discussed in June. The draft of the LRTP will be available for public review in spring 2018 and the finalized plan is expected in fall 2018.