

## **Meeting of Aug. 14, 2017**

### **\$3.1 Million Awarded to Improve O.C. Water Quality**

The board approved \$3.1 million to improve water quality in Orange County through Measure M funding for environmental cleanup. Begun in 2011, the program awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the county for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation.

After reviewing 24 applications from 21 cities, the OCTA board approved \$3.1 million for 16 projects focused on removing visible pollutants from roads before they reach waterways. These projects include purchasing or upgrading screens, filters and inserts for catch basins, as well as other devices designed to remove pollutants such as litter and debris. More than 1 million cubic feet of trash have been captured as the result of these devices.

The following cities received funding: Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Irvine, La Habra, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Orange, Placentia, Tustin, Villa Park and Yorba Linda.

During the past six years, the OCTA board has approved funding for 138 projects totaling approximately \$17 million.

### **I-405 Improvement Project Hits Milestones**

The board received an update on the I-405 Improvement project including an overview, financing update, construction timeline, public outreach update and next steps.

Recent milestones include closing the Federal TIFIA loan for \$629 million and giving the contractor the final notice to proceed.

OCTA has reached out to residents and local businesses to raise awareness prior to starting construction early next year. The project will add one regular lane and two express lanes to each side of the 16-mile stretch of the freeway between Costa Mesa and the L.A. County line. Completion is expected in 2023.

For more information about the I-405 Improvement Project and upcoming public outreach:

[www.octa.net/405improvement](http://www.octa.net/405improvement)

### **Active Transportation in O.C.**

OCTA's recent active transportation efforts include bicycle and pedestrian planning, education, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

**Regional Bikeways Planning:** About 40 percent of the 41 bike corridors have been completed; the remaining segments require funding. Sources of the estimated \$400 to \$500 million funding include the OCTA-administered Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program, the state-administered Active Transportation Program (ATP), and SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

**OC Loop:** The OC Loop, a 66-mile regional bikeway in north and central Orange County, is about 70 percent complete thanks to a cooperative effort between local cities and agencies. OCTA is working with cities to connect segments of the OC Loop and complete the project.

**OC Active:** Earlier this year, the board approved development for OC Active, the first countywide active transportation plan. Funded through a state active transportation plan grant, OC Active will evaluate needs and recommend active transportation improvements to the 34 Orange County cities and the County of Orange. The study is expected to be completed in summer 2018 after public engagement and project goals are discussed early next year.

**Systemic Safety Analysis Report (SSAR):** Earlier this year, the board authorized a consultant to develop a SSAR for Orange County in partnership with local agencies that would include an analysis of bicycle- and pedestrian-related collisions and trends of potential locations with risk factors. The information and analysis gathered will contribute to a list of potential infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions. Work on the 18-month project is expected to begin late this year with consultant funding provided primarily through a state Highway Safety Improvement Program grant.

OCTA has advanced planning, education and enforcement efforts to improve active transportation throughout Orange County. Coordination and collaboration continues among SCAG, Caltrans, local jurisdictions and community members to encourage and support people walking and bicycling within Orange County.

### **Chairman Hennessey Reports Board's Strategic Initiatives on Track**

At the beginning of the year, Chairman Michael Hennessey established board initiatives to advance OCTA's Strategic Plan goals of mobility, public service, fiscal sustainability, stewardship, and organizational excellence. His mid-year update on the initiatives included:

- **Break ground on Interstate 405 (I-405) and seek opportunities to accelerate the State Route 55 (SR-55) Project:** On the I-405 Improvement Project, OCTA successfully secured a \$629 million TIFIA loan with the U.S. Department of Transportation and has issued the contractor a notice to proceed fully with construction. Regarding the SR-55, in June 2017, the board entered into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to provide design and construction oversight for the SR-55 Improvement Project between the I-405 and I-5. At the same meeting, the Board approved the release of a request for proposals for the project's design phase.
- **Continue OC Bus 360° Implementation:** More than a year after OCTA began to implement route changes to improve service and increase efficiency, positive results are being seen in ridership numbers. In addition, OCTA fully implemented mobile ticketing, launched the 53Xpress service and entered into an agreement with Santa Ana College to provide students with unlimited bus service by using their student IDs.
- **Advance the OC Streetcar Project:** The design phase for this project is nearing completion and construction is anticipated to begin in 2018. The procurement process to select and award a contract for the manufacture and delivery of streetcar vehicles is underway and is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. The Federal Transit Administration continues to show strong support for this project. In January, the OC Streetcar Project was approved into the New Starts Program engineering phase. OCTA has completed the qualifying requirements and in May, the board directed staff to move forward by requesting a full funding grant agreement, the final phase of the New Starts program.
- **Integrate Technology Solutions:** In February, OCTA began work to improve the OC Bus mobile ticketing app to provide more options to riders. Also, OCTA, in partnership with the Center for

Transportation and the Environment, received more than \$13 million to purchase 10 zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell buses, and for construction and maintenance of necessary infrastructure. In March, a pilot project for the OC Same-Day Taxi smartphone application was launched. The new smartphone application allows eligible OC ACCESS users to schedule, track, and pay for Same-Day Taxi trips.

- **Ensure Fiscal Sustainability:** In April, the Taxpayer Oversight Committee's (TOC) annual public hearing and compliance results were presented to the board. For the 26th consecutive year, the TOC determined that OCTA is in compliance with the M2 Transportation Ordinance and Investment Plan. In June, the board approved the \$1.28 billion balanced budget for fiscal year 2017-18. As of the first pay period in January, all administrative employees are now paying 100 percent of their employee pension contribution.