



Citizens Advisory Committee Teleconference Notice

Committee Members:

Amelia Castro
Andrew Ramirez
Damon Tordini
Dan Kalmick
David Wheeler
Deepak Krishan
Derek McGregor
Dianne Thompson
Dirissy Doan
Frank Murphy

Javier Mejia
Jeff Thompson
John Kinney
John Taylor
Karalee Darnell
Kellie Aamodt Kunal Mittal
Laurel Reimer
Lisandro Orozco
Margaret Novak
Mark Paredes

Michael McNally
Mike Franze
Min Chai
Nick Polichetti
Patrick Brenden
Paul Adams
Roy Shahbazian
Stephanie Klopfenstein
Steve Kozak
Theresa Harvey

Teleconference Sites:

Orange County Transportation Authority - Headquarters
550 S. Main Street
Conference Room 07
Orange, CA

Guidance for Public Access to this Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting:

Governor Gavin Newsom enacted Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 authorizing a local legislative body to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and make public meetings accessible telephonically or electronically to all members of the public to promote social distancing due to the state and local State of Emergency resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20, and in order to ensure the safety of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) CAC Members and staff and for the purposes of limiting the risk of COVID-19, in-person public participation at public meetings of the OCTA will not be allowed during the time period covered by the above-referenced Executive Orders.

Instead, members of the public can listen to a live stream of the January 19, 2021 12p.m. Citizens Advisory Committee meeting by clicking this [link](#).

Public comments may be submitted for the upcoming January 19, 2021 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting by emailing them to publiccomments@octa.net. **If you wish to comment on a specific agenda item, please identify the committee name and item number in your email.** All public comments that are timely received will be part of the public record and distributed to the CAC. Public comments will be made available to the public upon request. In order to ensure that staff has the ability to provide comments to the CAC Members in a timely manner, please submit your public comments 30 minutes prior to the start time of the Committee meeting date.

Agenda Descriptions

The Agenda descriptions are intended to give notice to members of the public of a general summary of items of business to be transacted or discussed. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should contact the OCTA at (714) 560-5611, no less than two (2) business days prior to this meeting to enable OCTA to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.



Citizens Advisory Committee

January 19, 2021

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Teleconference Meeting

Agenda

1. **Chairman's Remarks** Jeff Thompson, *Chair, CAC*
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** Jeff Thompson, *Chair, CAC*
3. **Approval of October Minutes / Attendance Report**
Action Item
4. **Coronavirus Update** Jennifer Bergener, *Deputy CEO*
(10 min) Discussion
5. **Next 10 Delivery Plan – Context and Options** Francesca Ching, *M2 Program Management*
(10 min) Presentation
6. **Long Range Transportation Plan Introduction** Greg Nord, *Planning*
(10 min) Presentation
7. **FY 21/22 Comprehensive Business Plan – Bus Program Assumptions** Sean Murdock, *Finance and Administration*
(10 min) Presentation
8. **I-405 Improvement Project Update** Jeff Mills, *Capital Programs*
(15 min) Presentation Chris Boucly, *Public Outreach*
9. **Update Reports** Lance Larson, *Government Relations*
(5 minutes each)
 - Government Affairs Paul Adams, *Chair, Bike/Ped Subcommittee*
 - Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee Stella Lin, *Marketing & Customer Relations*
 - Marketing Christina Byrne, *Public Outreach*
 - OC Streetcar Christina Byrne, *Public Outreach*
 - Staff Liaison
10. **Committee Member Comments**
11. **Adjournment / Next Meeting:**
April 20, 2021

Agenda Descriptions/Public Comments on Agenda Items

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**Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
October 20, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
550 S. Main Street, Orange, CA
Teleconference Meeting**

Members Present

Kellie Aamodt , <i>UC Irvine/UPS</i>	Margaret Novak , <i>WTS/Ladera Ranch Civic Council</i>
Paul Adams , <i>Santa Ana Resident</i>	Lisandro Orozco , <i>Historic Santa Ana</i>
Amelia Castro , <i>Anaheim Housing & Comm. Dev Comsn.</i>	Mark Paredes , <i>Garden Grove Planning Commission</i>
Min Chai , <i>Irvine Resident</i>	Roy Shahbazian , <i>Bus Rider, Transit Advocate of OC</i>
Dirissy Doan , <i>Orange County Realtors</i>	Randy Styner , <i>Garden Grove Resident</i>
Theresa Harvey , <i>North Orange County Chamber</i>	Dianne Thompson , <i>Huntington Beach Chamber</i>
Dan Kalmick , <i>Huntington Beach Resident</i>	John Taylor , <i>Rotary Club of San Juan Capistrano</i>
John Kinney , <i>Laguna Niguel Traffic Commission</i>	Jeff Thompson , <i>Tustin Planning Commission and BIA</i>
Deepak Krishan , <i>Anaheim Resident/Accountant</i>	Damon Tordini , <i>Santa Ana Resident</i>
Derek McGregor , <i>Trabuco Canyon Advisory Comm.</i>	David Wheeler , <i>Laguna Hills Resident/City Council</i>
Michael McNally , <i>UC Irvine</i>	Karalee Darnell , <i>Cal State Fullerton</i>
Javier Mejia , <i>Los Alamitos Traffic Commission</i>	Laurel Reimer , <i>Urban Planner</i>
Frank Murphy , <i>Orange Rotary</i>	

Members Absent

Andrew Ramirez , <i>Santa Ana Resident</i>	Steve Kozak , <i>Tustin Planning Commission</i>
Patrick Brenden , <i>Huntington Beach Resident/City Council</i>	Kunal Mittal , <i>Civil Engineer</i>
Michael Franze , <i>Fullerton Bicycles</i>	Nick Polichetti , <i>American Society of Civil Engineers</i>
Stephanie Klopfenstein , <i>GG Council/Neighborhood Assn.</i>	

1. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Jeff Thompson welcomed everyone to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. He thanked staff for making the meeting happen on Zoom. Chair Thompson asked the staff liaison to read any public comments. Christina Byrne said there are no comments. Christina read through the teleconference protocols.

Christina Byrne took a roll call of members present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Jeff Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Approval of July Minutes

Chairman Jeff Thompson asked if there are any corrections to the July 21, 2020 CAC Minutes/Attendance Report. Margret Novak noted she was at the meeting but marked absent.

A motion was made by Dianne Thompson, seconded by Theresa Harvey, and carried unanimously to approve the CAC minutes.

4. Coronavirus Update

Jennifer Bergener said OCTA has adapted business operations due to the pandemic. Jennifer provided an overview of the changes made in the spring to bus operations. Currently OCTA is offering a service level of approximately 60% of what it was pre-pandemic and ridership is at about 50% of its pre-pandemic levels. Jennifer said on the capital projects side, OCTA had accelerated some freeway projects due to the low traffic volume. She said specifically on the I-5 Central Improvement Project, OCTA was able to complete the project several months ahead of schedule. She said on the I-405 Project, OCTA estimates more than 5,000 hours of additional work was able to be completed between mid-March and May. She said freeway traffic volumes have now returned and OCTA is no longer implementing daytime or extended evening closures. Jennifer said the OC Streetcar Project was able to advance utility work due to the lower levels of traffic volume.

Jennifer said OCTA secured roughly \$160 million from the CARES Act. The vast majority of that money goes to OCTA bus operations. She said OCTA continues to closely monitor revenue. Measure M revenue decreased roughly \$37 million from the last fiscal year. To date, OCTA has incurred roughly \$10.2 million in COVID-related costs. Jennifer also talked about efforts to move staff to remote work. She said by staff working remotely, OCTA has benefited the environment. For the timeframe of March through mid-August, there was a reduction of 1.3 million vehicle miles traveled, a reduction of 47,000 gallons of gasoline used and a reduction of 900,000 lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee Member Comments:

David Wheeler asked if any of the coach operators have been diagnosed with COVID. Jennifer Bergener said within the entire OCTA sphere – employees, coach operators, contractors – close to 80 people have tested COVID positive. However, none of these people have tested positive due to their time at work.

5. Orange County Coronavirus Travel Trends

Kurt Brotcke provided a brief snapshot of Orange County Coronavirus travel trends. He said this data is based on work-from-home and unemployment as key drivers. He talked about the unemployment rate and the types of jobs suffering due to the pandemic. He said OCTA's decreased bus ridership is directly linked to the types of jobs lost during the pandemic. In July 2020, OCTA conducted an employment and travel poll of Orange County residents and results were shared. He said that working

from home has had the biggest effect on travel. He said the unemployment rate has had the biggest effect on transit services. Kurt said this is a very simplified version of the matrixes, but there are more in-depth looks at this data as well. OCTA will continue to monitor these changes so OCTA can put funds to proper use.

Committee Member Comments:

David Wheeler asked what causes Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to go down slightly but the delays to go down dramatically. Kurt Brotcke said with just a little change in VMT a greater number vehicles can travel with minimal delays.

6. South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study (SOCMTS)

Warren Whittaker provided background on the SOCMTS which is designed to help to create a long-term vision of transportation in south Orange County. OCTA is working on updating the 2008 South Orange County Major Investment Study (SOCMIS). Warren provided an overview of the projects completed that were originally in the 2008 study. He said the current study is looking out to the year 2024. Warren talked about the study goals, transportation issues, and deficiencies. He said the next steps include the initial screening of alternatives and concepts and going to the OCTA Board in February 2021.

Marissa Espino led the committee in a two-question online survey. After the committee submitted their response to the first question, results indicated that freeway congestion, streets/roads congestion, and land use are top concerns. The responses to the second question ranked freeway maintenance the highest, but all of them were a high priority to various members of the committee. Christina Byrne reminded committee members that their answers and comments on this survey will be incorporated into the technical analysis of this study. She said the full survey link was sent to committee members and will be resent to make sure committee members have an opportunity to provide input into the study. Marissa finished with a slide showing the link to the full study, the project website, and the hotline phone number.

Committee Member Comments:

David Wheeler expressed concerns regarding the proposed on/off ramps at El Toro Road and the land use surrounding those ramps as it pertains to the businesses in the area. He also said the on ramp at Oso Parkway is narrow during the I-5 South construction creating a lack of visibility.

Michael McNally answered the poll question stating traffic congestion on freeways even though he said he drives on freeways very little. He said greenhouse gases and emissions are strongly tied to congestion in general. He said land use planning is indicative of freeway congestion. He would like to see how a transit subcommittee would have rated these. Michael is also concerned about safety. He said a transit user would view it differently than someone who drives.

Jeff Thompson said even though freeways have reduced congestion right now due to the pandemic, there is always opportunity for improvement.

7. Planning Studies Update

Charlie Larwood provided an update on some of OCTA's major planning studies. The 2022 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will kick-off in January 2021 and continue through Spring 2021. The SR-91 Implementation Plan which OCTA, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and Caltrans are required to do, outlines improvements to the corridor between SR-57 and I-15. The Habitat Conservation Plan is an annual update on the habitat's owned and run by OCTA for mitigation of freeway projects. OCTA is also working on the Bristol Street Corridor Study for high capacity transit within the corridor which runs from the end of the OC Streetcar in Santa Ana to South Coast Plaza. This study is part of the Transit Master Plan. Staff is working on four bus alternatives and two streetcar alternatives. Another plan OCTA is working on is the Coordinated Human Services Plan. This plan develops recommendations for services for seniors, people with disabilities, and the underserved communities. A final report is going to the OCTA Board Transit Committee in November. OCTA continues to work on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study. This is a conceptual study in which alternatives are evaluated for freeway BRT service, specifically on SR-55 and the I-5 corridors. Currently there are five alternatives developed and staff is looking at possible station locations. This study should be complete in June 2021. OCTA is also working on the Connect OC/LA Study. This study identifies short and long-term links within the transit infrastructure between the two counties. OCTA Staff is also working on the Transit Supportive Design Guidelines. This includes modernizing transit stops and safety guidelines into a more comprehensive set of guidelines.

Charlie Larwood talked about Active Transportation Studies including the Safe Travels Education Program and Safe Routes to School Program which delivers a range of activities to 25 schools in disadvantaged communities. Charlie said OCTA recently completed the Office of Traffic Safety - Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Project. He said within this project OCTA completed 12 safety classes, distributed safety equipment to cyclists/pedestrians and distributed reflective items along bus routes where there has been a history of pedestrian crashes due to low light conditions. Charlie said the last study in this area is the Bike Gap Closure Feasibility Study in which OCTA will conduct a comprehensive assessment of gaps in the central and south portions of Orange County's bikeways as well as develop a cross-county connector route.

Marissa Espino shared information about the Rail Infrastructure Defense Against Climate Change Study. This study looks at how severe weather affects the Orange County rail corridor. This study will identify opportunities and challenges to operations and infrastructure to better withstand high heat, heavy rain, and winds. Marissa said as part of the BRT Study we are asking for input via an online survey available at

www.OCTA.net/Freeway/BRT. Staff will be sending this information to committee members.

Committee Member Comments:

There were no committee member comments.

8. OC Streetcar Update

Jim Beil provided an update on the construction of the OC Streetcar Project. Jim outlined the work happening within the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW) and Segments 2 through 5. He showed pictures of work happening in several segments. Jim discussed the challenges the project has encountered and upcoming milestones. He said in the news recently was the discovery of a Native American archaeological site. OCTA along with the Federal Transit Administration is doing a risk assessment on the project.

Cleve Cleveland provided information on OC Streetcar car production. He said all eight cars are in some form of production. He showed pictures of the streetcars in various stages of production. Siemens, who produces the streetcars, has experienced some delivery delays of parts due to COVID-19.

Tresa Oliveri provided an update on the OC Streetcar outreach. She said the OCTA Board of Directors approved agreements with the Santa Ana Business Council and the Downtown, Inc. In August, OCTA conducted a virtual open house. She said staff continues to hand out information door to door in neighborhoods where work is being done.

Committee Member Comments:

A committee member asked if this is the first time these vehicles have been used in the US. Cleve Cleveland said these vehicles are being used in Seattle and Phoenix.

Jeff Thompson asked if the overall construction schedule has been advanced due to COVID. Jim Biel said COVID has not hurt the overall construction timeline. During the shutdown the City of Santa Ana let OCTA extend closures and utility shutdowns to get the work done quicker. The city also let restaurants use the parking areas which has not affected the progress. He said last week an electrical subcontractor had some positive cases of COVID and OCTA is monitoring the situation.

9. Fullerton Park and Ride Joint Development Study

Sam Sharvini provided the history of the Fullerton Park and Ride near the intersection of the I-5 and SR-91. This site is slightly underused due to commuters using Metrolink but is still used as a key transfer station for buses. Because FTA funds were used to purchase this site, OCTA must continue to use it for transit. Sam outlined some of the land use options at the site including some long-term leases and high-density housing. The study will be complete in 2026 and then could move into construction.

Committee Member Comments:

Michael McNally asked if the site could be traded. Sam Sharvini said OCTA's understanding is, per the FTA, the land must stay in OCTA's possession.

10. Update Reports

- Government Affairs – Dustin Sifford said OCTA is continuing to monitor a stimulus package. He said Sacramento is watching to see what the federal government is doing. Dustin said staff is working on the final draft of the legislative platform.
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee – Paul Adams said the subcommittee met on September 15 via a teleconference. He said we now have 15 active subcommittee members. Members heard a presentation on Active Transportation. The subcommittee also heard presentations on Safe Routes to School and Bike to Work Week.
- Marketing – Stella Lin said OCTA has been working on pandemic communications regarding bus travel. Metrolink has been providing safety information regarding riding the train along with promotions aimed at those under 17 years old and staycation options.
- I-405 Improvement Project – Christina Byrne said Bushard Street opened to traffic this week. McFadden bridge opened last week which was a huge milestone. A video will be launched today outlining the milestone.
- Staff Liaison – Christina Byrne said staff will be sending a survey to committee members regarding the Zoom meeting platform. She said the next meeting will be January 19, 2021.

11. Committee Member Comments

There were no committee member comments.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

13. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Jeff Thompson thanked staff for putting this meeting together and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be January 19, 2021.

Citizens Advisory Committee Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Attendance Record

● = Present

⊙ = Absent

R = Resigned

MEMBER	7/21/20	10/20/20	1/19/21	4/20/21
Amelia Castro	●	●		
Andrew Ramirez	●	⊙		
Damon Tordini	●	●		
Dan Kalmick	●	●		
David Wheeler	●	●		
Deepak Krishan	●	●		
Derek McGregor	●	●		
Dianne Thompson	●	●		
Dirissy Doan	●	●		
Frank Murphy	●	●		
Javier Mejia	●	●		
Jeff Thompson	●	●		
John Kinney	●	●		
John Taylor	●	●		
Karalee Darnell	●	●		
Kellie Aamodt	●	●		
Kunal Mittal	●	⊙		
Laurel Reimer	⊙	●		
Lisandro Orozco	●	●		
Margaret Novak	●	●		
Mark Paredes	⊙	●		
Michael McNally	●	●		
Mike Franze	⊙	⊙		
Min Chai	●	●		
Nick Polichetti	●	⊙		
Patrick Brenden	●	⊙		
Paul Adams	●	●		
Randy Styner	●	●		
Roy Shahbazian	●	●		
Stephanie Klopfenstein	⊙	⊙		
Steve Kozak	●	●		
Theresa Harvey	●	●		