

Meeting of April 8, 2019

Program Shuttles 1.8 Million People

The Orange County Transportation Authority board received an update on an OCTA program that gives funding to cities to operate shuttles, trolleys and special event transportation.

The funding is provided through Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

To date, the OCTA board has awarded more than \$43 million from the program to help fund 29 of these services. More than 1.8 million people have hopped on one of these shuttles instead of getting in their car.

Eighteen services were in operation between April and September of last year, including in Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach, Lake Forest, Newport Beach, San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano.

San Clemente also operates a service through the program that subsidizes Lyft fares for those looking for a ride in neighborhoods previously served by OC Bus routes 191 and 193, which were eliminated in 2016 because of low productivity.

New App Keeps 405 Project Info at Commuters' Fingertips

A mobile app has launched to help residents and commuters navigate construction on I-405.

The I-405 Improvement Project app includes quick access to current traffic conditions, closures and detours, along with project updates and links to contact the project team. The app is available to download for free in the Apple and Google Play stores.

The \$1.9 billion project will add one regular lane in each direction between Euclid Street and I-605, and a second lane in the center of the freeway between SR-73 and I-605 that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes.

18 bridges will also be built, widened or replaced to make room for the widened freeway and to improve local traffic and add bike lanes and sidewalks.

Construction has started on six bridges, and work is expected to begin in the coming months on the Harbor Boulevard undercrossing and the Bolsa Avenue, Westminster Boulevard and Santa Ana River bridges. Construction on the Talbert Avenue and Bushard Street bridges are expected to begin later this year.

For more information about the 405 Improvement Project, visit octa.net/405improvement.

I-5 Freeway Construction in Central O.C. Gets Going

Work recently began on the I-5 Central County Improvements Project, which will add a second carpool lane in each direction on I-5 between SR-55 and SR-57.

The I-5 carpool ramps on Main Street in Santa Ana are expected to permanently close on Tuesday, April 9 in preparation for bridge demolition. The carpool ramps, which allow drivers to directly enter and exit the I-5 carpool lanes from Main Street, must be demolished to make room for the additional carpool lanes.

The project will help speed up commutes and alleviate bottlenecks on I-5 in Santa Ana, Orange and Tustin, an area traveled by 380,000 drivers every day. Traffic on that stretch of I-5 is expected to climb to more than 400,000 vehicles a day by 2035.

The project will remove the concrete barriers between the carpool and regular lanes and the carpool lanes will be striped for continuous access, allowing drivers to move freely between the carpool and regular lanes.

The \$41.5 million project is funded with federal dollars and by Measure M. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2021.

For more information about the I-5 Central County Improvements Project, visit octa.net/i5central.