

Meeting of Oct. 14, 2019

OC Bus 360° Keeps Orange County Moving

The OCTA board received an update on OC Bus 360°, the agency's comprehensive effort to improve bus service throughout the county.

OC Bus 360° efforts have included implementing new and faster bus routes, reallocating bus service to areas with higher demand and launching a mobile ticketing app.

As part of OC Bus 360°, Fullerton College and Golden West College were recently added to OCTA's College Pass Program. The program, which also includes Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College, allows students enrolled at participating schools to ride the bus for free with their student ID card. More than 14,600 students have taken advantage of this program, boarding the bus a combined 2.3 million times.

OCTA also offered a promotional 30-day bus pass this summer to incentivize bus travel. More than 10,000 Sun & Fun passes were sold, contributing to a 7 percent increase in pass sales compared to last year and more than 1,000 new mobile ticketing accounts were opened.

In addition, OCTA operated the OC Fair Express again this summer from nine locations throughout Orange County. More than 83,000 people boarded this non-stop bus service to the OC Fair, up more than 4 percent compared to last year. The last weekend of the fair set a record for the OC Fair Express, with more than 18,000 boardings in a single weekend.

Board Receives Metrolink Performance Report

The OCTA board also received an update on Metrolink's ridership for fiscal year 2018-19.

Metrolink achieved its highest annual ridership in its almost 27-year history, with nearly 12 million boardings. This record is a 2.1 percent increase from the previous year, an increase of more than 247,000 passengers.

In Orange County, Metrolink recorded 5.1 million boardings, a slight increase over the previous year. Every day, Metrolink trains carry an average of 18,550 passengers on its three lines serving the county.

Cities Invited to Apply for Community Shuttle Services

The OCTA board approved a fourth call for projects for cities interested in operating a community shuttle or other transit service.

The program is funded by Project V, a competitive program under OC Go, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as Measure M. The goal of the program is for cities to develop and implement transit services that complement regional bus and rail services, and better suit local needs in areas not adequately served by regional transit.

To date, the OCTA board has awarded approximately \$42 million for these community shuttle services. Up to \$9 million is available through this call for projects.

Applications are due by Dec. 12 and are expected to be considered by the OCTA board in the spring.