

Meeting of Nov. 25, 2019

November Employees of the Month Recognized

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for November.

The honors went to:

- George Beyer, coach operator
- Gabriel Sanchez, maintenance
- Steven King, administration

91 Express Lanes Usage Exceeds Expectations

The OCTA board heard an update on the 91 Express Lanes, showing 4.6 million trips were taken during the summer months through September.

In September, nearly 1.5 million trips were recorded, a daily average of more than 49,000 and a 4.2 percent increase over the previous year.

The 91 Express Lanes have exceeded predicted traffic volumes since the Riverside County Transportation Commission extended the lanes into Riverside County in 2017. Traffic growth can also be attributed to a strong local economy.

The 91 Express Lanes is a four-lane toll road, with 10 miles in Orange County in the median of SR-91, which is one of Southern California's most heavily traveled freeways and a critical link between job centers in Orange County and housing in Riverside County. An additional 8 miles of the 91 Express Lanes, operated by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, opened in March 2017.

For more information on the 91 Express Lanes, visit www.91expresslanes.com.

OC Streetcar Construction Rolling Along

The OCTA board received an update on the status of OC Streetcar construction, the county's first modern electric streetcar.

Streetcar vehicle production began in September and utility relocations, including sewer and water drains, are almost complete. Construction in the downtown Santa Ana area will be on pause during the holiday season.

OCTA also released a convenient mobile app for users to receive project information and updates in just a few swipes. The free OC Streetcar app is available in Apple and Google Play stores.

The OC Streetcar will run about 4 miles between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center and Garden Grove, connecting with Orange County's busiest bus routes. The route serves Santa Ana's

thriving downtown and dense employment areas, including county and local government offices and courthouses in the Civic Center area.

For more information about the OC Streetcar project, visit www.OCStreetcar.com.