

Meeting of Nov. 9, 2020

Signal Synchronization Coming to Warner Avenue

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors approved the selection of Iteris, Inc. to provide engineering services to synchronize traffic signals along Warner Avenue through Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach and Santa Ana.

The project will synchronize the timing of traffic signals in 42 intersections over approximately 13 miles from Pacific Coast Highway to Pullman Street. It aims to help drivers save time by ensuring they hit the most green lights during peak traffic hours and save on fuel costs, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The project is being primarily funded by SB 1, the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, along with Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

OCTA Purchases Battery-Electric Buses

The OCTA board approved the purchase of up to 10, 40-foot plug-in battery-electric buses from New Flyer of America, Inc., another important step toward a balanced and sustainable transportation future for Orange County.

Five of the battery-electric buses will be grant-funded through the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program and the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). These buses will mark the introduction of OCTA's newest route, Bravo! Main Street, providing rapid bus service between the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center and South Coast Metro via Main Street. The remaining five buses will operate throughout the county.

The purchase of these buses is consistent with OCTA's plan to convert its fleet to 100% zero-emission bus (ZEB) technology by 2040, in accordance with California's Innovative Clean Transit Rule.

OCTA has already taken steps to pilot zero-emission technology. Earlier this year, OCTA began operating 10 hydrogen fuel-cell electric buses. Testing both hydrogen fuel-cell and plug-in battery-electric buses will allow OCTA to collect valuable data on how the ZEBs perform on local streets and to determine which technology – or the best mix of technologies – to pursue moving forward.

Board Receives Strategic Initiatives Quarterly Update

The OCTA board received a third quarter report of the 2020 board and CEO strategic initiatives and action plan.

The balanced and forward-thinking plan, originally presented in January, consists of five board and nine CEO initiatives, monitored through 97 milestones for the year. In May, a revised action plan with an updated 92 milestones was presented to the board to address impacts due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Accomplishments in the third quarter include:

- Extending the College Pass Program at Santa Ana College, Saddleback College and the Rancho Santiago Community College District Division of Continuing Education
- Issuing and awarding a request for proposals to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Approving the purchase of zero-emission operator relief vehicles from a statewide contract through the California Department of General Services
- Obtaining legal possession of the right-of-way necessary for the I-405 Improvement Project