

Meeting of March 8, 2021

OCTA Setting Vision for Mobility Hubs in O.C.

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors selected Steer Davies & Gleave, Inc. as the firm to develop the Orange County Mobility Hubs Strategy, a study that will guide future transportation hub projects in Orange County.

A mobility hub is a place where different transportation options, including transit, rideshare, biking and walking, come together to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve. A connected network of hubs across the county can help people travel across the region safely and efficiently.

Future mobility hubs will provide additional transportation options throughout the county, helping reduce the need for residents to drive alone, enhancing access to transportation and improving the environment.

The Orange County Mobility Hubs Strategy will create conceptual designs for future hubs, and identify areas of the county with concentrations of employment, housing, shopping and recreation, which could benefit from the hubs.

The study is part of OCTA's ongoing efforts to provide a balanced and sustainable transportation system that reflects the diverse travel needs of Orange County's residents.

Northbound SR-57 Project Advances

Plans to improve northbound SR-57 progressed as the OCTA board released a request for proposals to retain a firm to prepare plans, specifications and estimates for the SR-57 Northbound Improvement Project.

The project, now entering the design phase, will add one regular lane in the northbound direction of SR-57 between Oranewood and Katella avenues to improve traffic.

It will also extend the auxiliary lane from the Oranewood Avenue off-ramp to the Katella Avenue off-ramp to create more space to merge, and expand the Katella Avenue off-ramp to allow more vehicles to exit the freeway at the same time.

The project is part of Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go. It is also included in the Next 10 Delivery Plan, which sets project and program priorities through 2026, with an aim of delivering transportation improvements promised to voters in Measure M as early as possible.

Board Receives Update on I-5 Improvements in South County

The OCTA board received an update on the I-5 South County Improvements Project, which is widening 6.5 miles of the freeway between SR-73 and El Toro Road.

All three segments of the project are now under construction and are expected to be completed in 2025. Funding for the project comes from Measure M, which was renewed by voters in 2006.

Improvements to freeway will include:

- Adding one regular lane in both directions between Avery and Alicia parkways to ease congestion
- Extending the second carpool lane in both directions between Alicia Parkway and El Toro Road to improve the flow of traffic
- Widening sidewalks and adding regular lanes and bike lanes to the Avery Parkway and La Paz Road interchanges, and the Los Alisos Boulevard overcrossing
- Adding auxiliary lanes to help traffic smoothly enter and exit the freeway
- Improving on- and off-ramps to increase capacity
- Converting carpool lanes to continuous access, allowing drivers to enter or exit at any point along the route