

Meeting of Sept. 27, 2021

Measure M Expected to Generate \$13.2 Billion Through 2041

The OCTA board received its updated annual long-term forecast for Measure M, showing that the Orange County voter-approved sales tax is expected to generate \$13.2 billion for transportation improvements through 2041.

The updated forecast is 13.8% higher than last year's forecast because of Orange County's economic recovery from the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As a result of the improving economy, final Measure M sales tax receipts for fiscal year 2020-21 came in at \$345 million, which is the highest amount ever received.

OCTA will continue to monitor the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on sales tax revenues, as well as Measure M projects and programs, to ensure that all promises to voters are kept. The board is expected to receive an update on any potential impacts over the coming months as the Measure M Next 10 Delivery Plan is updated.

SR-55 Improvement Project Progresses

Plans to improve SR-55 between I-5 and SR-91 progressed as OCTA entered into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to define the roles and responsibilities of each agency.

The SR-55 Improvement Project will ease congestion and improve the flow of traffic by adding one regular lane in each direction of SR-55 between I-5 and SR-22 and modifying freeway ramps at Katella Avenue, Lincoln Avenue and Fourth Street.

OCTA will be implementing the project's plans, specifications and estimates, and Caltrans will be responsible for the advertisement and award of the construction contract.

The project is funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

Board Recognizes September Employees of the Month

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

The honors went to:

- Freddy Garcia, a coach operator at the Santa Ana base, who started his driving career with OCTA in 1995. This year, Freddy achieved 25 years of safe driving.

- David Sanchez, a journeyman mechanic at the Santa Ana base, who joined OCTA in 2019. David was instrumental in standardizing the engine air intake hose lengths on some of OCTA's buses which has greatly enhanced engine-life performance.
- Robert Davis, OCTA's Treasury and Public Finance Department Manager, who joined OCTA in 2019. Robert successfully led the effort to complete the rate reset of OCTA's \$629 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan for the I-405 Improvement Project that will ultimately save more than \$158 million over the life of the loan.