

Meeting of Oct. 25, 2021

Board Recognizes October Employees of the Month

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for October. The honors went to:

- Guillermo Obeso, a coach operator at the Garden Grove base who started his driving career with OCTA in 1990. In March, Guillermo achieved 28 years of safe driving.
- Patrick Dawes, a journeyman mechanic at the Garden Grove base who joined OCTA in 2005. Patrick's exceptional diagnostic skills have kept OCTA's buses on the road, enabling the agency to continue providing safe and reliable transportation.
- Gina Ramirez, a senior specialist in the Clerk of the Board's office who joined OCTA in 2013. During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Gina was instrumental in helping to transition all board and committee meetings to a virtual format.

Improvements Rolling Along at Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station

The OCTA board received an update on the Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station Improvement Project, which will help facilitate a more efficient and comfortable rail experience for commuters at the station, located just north of SR-91 near La Palma and Tustin avenues.

The project, currently under construction, will add a second track and a second passenger platform, extend the existing platform, improve two railroad crossings, and install shade structures, benches, and an additional ticket vending machine. The improvements will enhance on-time performance and safety and accommodate future train service.

Construction of the rail, platform and street improvements will continue in full swing over the next several months. Tustin and La Palma avenues are expected to close on separate weekends in January to accommodate construction. The rail line is also expected to shut down over a weekend in May and another in June to ensure that work can be performed safely.

The project is scheduled to be completed in early 2023.

OC Streetcar Construction Progresses

OCTA's board of directors received a quarterly update on OC Streetcar construction between July and September.

The OC Streetcar will be Orange County's first modern electric streetcar, running along a 4.1-mile route between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove. The project will provide an additional affordable and convenient transit option, connecting with several of the busiest OC Bus routes and Metrolink commuter rail, in one of the nation's most densely populated areas, while producing zero emissions.

Updates include:

- Construction of the Westminster and Santa Ana River bridges is substantially complete, and work is underway on both bridges to prepare to install rail.
- The Fairview Street grade crossing was completed.
- Construction of eastbound and westbound track on Santa Ana Boulevard between Bristol and Raitt streets is complete, including the median island construction and final pavement.
- Curved track on Mortimer and Fourth streets is complete.
- Construction at the Fifth Street crossing began.

The OC Streetcar project is funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go, as well as federal and state dollars. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2023.