

Meeting of June 13, 2016

OCTA board approves \$1.16 billion balanced budget

The OCTA board approved a balanced \$1.16 billion budget for the upcoming fiscal year that starts on July 1.

The 2016-17 budget encompasses all services, projects and programs that are administered by OCTA.

A major initiative for the year includes an effort to increase bus ridership through implementation of OC Bus 360°, a program aimed at improving service and increasing the efficiency of bus travel throughout the county. This includes an increase in marketing efforts and the deferral of a planned fare increase.

In addition, the budget includes funding to advance the I-405 Improvement Project and for the OC Streetcar, two major capital projects that are currently underway by OCTA.

Funding allocations for the budget include:

- \$345.1 million for countywide bus service
- \$183.2 million for streets and roads improvements
- \$230.4 million for freeway projects
- \$10.5 million for environmental cleanup

\$26.7 million headed to local transit shuttles

The OCTA board approved more than \$26.7 million to help Orange County cities provide community-based transit circulators to better serve their specific public transit needs.

The money is being provided through Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. When Measure M was renewed by voters in 2006, it included a funding program for cities to develop and implement shuttles and bus trolleys.

The shuttles and trolleys, smaller than a typical OCTA bus, are intended to connect riders to major civic, employment and shopping destinations, as well as major transportation centers, to meet local needs that would complement OCTA bus service.

Those receiving funding include Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, Laguna Beach, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Westminster and the county of Orange.

In addition to fulfilling the Measure M promise to improve transit, these projects fit into OC Bus 360°, OCTA's ongoing effort to create better and more efficient bus service countywide.

New members selected for Measure M Taxpayers Oversight Committee

Four new members were appointed to the Measure M Taxpayers Oversight Committee to fill vacant positions.

Measure M, a half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, was approved by voters in 1990 and renewed in 2006. The ordinance calls for a committee to oversee the implementation of the transportation improvement program. Each year, new committee members are recruited and selected to fill vacancies left by expired terms.

With the recruitment process complete, a lottery was held to fill the first, third, fourth and fifth supervisorial district positions, along with alternates.

The following people were selected:

- Richie Kerwin Lim from Westminster, first district
- Eugene Fields from Orange, third district
- Stanley Counts from Placentia, fourth district
- Matt McGuinness from Laguna Beach, fifth district

The new members will begin serving their three-year terms in July. They will replace Narinder “Nindy” Mahal, Terre Duensing, Cynthia Hall and Nilima Gupta.

The outgoing members received Orange County Transportation Authority resolutions of appreciation for their dedication, time and commitment.

OCTA puts Tustin on path to adding downtown bike lanes

Biking and walking in downtown Tustin are headed for improvements after the OCTA board approved the city’s request to amend the Master Plan of Arterial Highways.

OCTA administers the countywide transportation plan, which includes reviewing and approving any changes requested by local agencies.

The changes approved by OCTA include:

- Converting one travel lane in each direction to make room for wider sidewalks and new bike lanes on First Street from just east of SR-55 to Newport Avenue
- Narrowing travel lanes in each direction and adding bike lanes on Main Street from the westernmost city limits to Newport Avenue

The reduction in traffic lanes will allow the city to allocate more space for sidewalks and bike lanes to support its vision for a more walkable and bikeable downtown. A bike lane along Main Street will also support the implementation of a regional bikeways network as identified in OCTA’s 2016 Orange County Foothills Bikeways Strategy, which was developed as part of a countywide effort to identify bikeways that connected across city boundaries.

The approved changes account for expected growth in vehicle traffic and the streets will operate at an acceptable level in the future. The city of Tustin will be responsible for implementing the changes, adding the bike lanes and improving the sidewalks.