



Orange County Transportation Authority . 550 South Main Street . P.O. Box 14184 . Orange, California 92863-1584 . 714-560-OCTA (6282)

## Meeting of March 24, 2014

### Fixed-Guideway Project Rolling Along in Santa Ana/Garden Grove

The Santa Ana/Garden Grove Fixed-Guideway project is moving along steadily. A required federal alternatives analysis is finished and the state and federal environmental process is nearing completion. Both are significant milestones in the project's development.

The project is planned to run between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center and Harbor Boulevard at Westminster Avenue and help to enhance mobility, regional connectivity and extend the reach of Metrolink in central Orange County.



Ongoing workgroup meetings are currently taking place and other outreach projects will include environmental and public meetings, fixed-guideway alignment tours, small group meetings with property owners and door-to-door meetings with businesses.

The cities are scheduled to provide a full project overview on the completion of the Environmental Assessment/ Draft Environmental Impact Report to the board in May. A locally preferred alternative is expected to be adopted in July.

The Santa Ana/Garden Grove fixed-guideway project is part of Measure M2 Project S, known as Transit Extensions to Metrolink. The program provides funding for cities to build rapid-transit extensions from Metrolink stations to major business, housing and activity centers.

### OCTA Awarded Funding for 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program

The California Transportation Commission approved OCTA's \$240 million funding request for the 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). OCTA submitted the 2014 STIP to the CTC in November to enhance Orange County freeway, local interchange and rail projects.

Along with the approval for \$240 million, OCTA received an additional \$3 million in interregional improvement funding for projects selected by the Caltrans division of rail.

Approved projects in the 2014 STIP include:

- Improvements to the Lambert Road interchange
- Adding one HOV lane in each direction on the I-5 from Avenida Pico to Avenida Vista Hermosa
- Adding one lane in each direction on the I-5 from the SR-73 to Oso Parkway
- Adding one southbound auxiliary lane on the I-405 from University Drive to Sand Canyon Avenue and Sand Canyon Avenue to the SR-133

The STIP is a multi-year capital improvement program of transportation projects, funded with revenues from the Transportation Investment Fund and other funding sources.

### Board Approves Funding for Prop 1B Projects



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The board approved five projects totaling more than \$7 million to be funded by Proposition 1B California Transit Security Grant Program (CTSGP ) for the 2013 and 2014 fiscal years.

The CTSGP makes \$3.5 million available each year to fund transit, system safety, security and disaster response projects.

The projects approved for funding include:

- Transit Communications System Upgrade
- Trapeze Emergency Management Module
- Sand Canyon Avenue Grade Separation
- Raymond Avenue Grade Separation
- State College Boulevard Grade Separation

The projects were chosen based on program eligibility, project readiness, overall funding need and expenditure within the grant performance periods.

### **Quarterly Report Highlights Metrolink Rail Programs and Facilities Activities**

The board received a quarterly update on Metrolink rail programs and facilities department. The discussion focused on service expansion plans, grade crossing safety enhancements, station improvements, passenger communications, positive train control, grade separation projects and transit extensions to Metrolink projects.

Some quarterly updates include:

- The Placentia Metrolink Station is currently in the design phase and plans for platforms, station amenities and parking are 90 percent complete
- The Sand Canyon Avenue grade separation in Irvine is currently under construction. The project is 76 percent complete and is expected to be finished in the fall
- Weekday and weekend ridership for three Metrolink lines serving Orange County has increased by .3 percent compared to this quarter last year and has decreased 7 percent from the first quarter



The rail programs and facilities engineering department manages OCTA's rail project development, capital programs, operations and transit facilities engineering projects.