

Meeting of Feb. 9, 2015

Board recognizes OCTA's 2014 Employees of the Year

The board presented resolutions of appreciation to the recently named 2014 Employees of the Year at the start of Monday's meeting.

The honors went to:

- Juan Chavez, Coach Operator of the Year
- Louis Zhao, Administrative Employee of the Year
- Nhon Ly, Maintenance Operator of the Year

Chavez, a Garden Grove resident, has been with OCTA for 41 years and works out of the Garden Grove base. He was commended as a key player in bus operations who performs his duties safely, reliably and professionally. Chavez has achieved more than 36 years of safe driving and is known for treating his customers with courtesy and the utmost care.

Zhao, of Mission Viejo, was honored for demonstrating outstanding effort and contributions to the agency in all of his work as a transportation and funding analyst. He works with state agencies to develop funding guidelines for active transportation projects, including bicycling programs in Orange County. Some of his accomplishments include building a relationship with 35 local agencies, resulting in funding for 28 projects such as the O.C. Loop for cyclists and pedestrians.

Ly, a Westminster resident, works at the Garden Grove base. In his position as an advanced technology mechanic, Ly demonstrates exceptional mechanical skills and knowledge in the electric and alternate fuel components. He is known for being able to handle even the most difficult repairs, including assisting with challenging bus repairs.

Board Takes Steps to Ensure Local Control of I-405 improvements

The board directed CEO Darrell Johnson to re-engage in discussions with Caltrans regarding the design-build cooperative agreement on the I-405 Improvement project and return to the board with an option in which OCTA would take the lead on implementing both phases of the project.

That option for board consideration, expected within 60 days, would include policies that detail operations, management and use of excess revenue for the planned high-occupancy (HOT) lanes. The board's action comes after Caltrans was able to secure \$82 million to begin implementation of the HOT lanes. The HOT lanes had previously been planned as a second phase of the project after OCTA added one regular lane in each direction, as promised to voters in Measure M.

The full project alternative selected by Caltrans in the environmental process in July 2014, calls for one general-purpose lane in each direction and an additional lane in each direction to be combined with the existing carpool lane to create a dual tolled express lane.

Board members said that Caltrans adding \$82 million in state funds to the project was a “game-changer,” making it clear that the HOT lanes would be built. When that became clear, board members said it’s better for OCTA to lead the project to ensure local control of how the project is constructed and operated.

A board Ad Hoc committee has been appointed to work with the CEO in discussions with Caltrans.

CEO Johnson announces 2015 initiatives to support board strategies

CEO Darrell Johnson outlined his initiatives and action plan for the year to accomplish and monitor the board’s strategic initiatives. The CEO’s initiatives support the board’s strategies and OCTA’s goals of mobility, public service, fiscal sustainability, stewardship and organizational excellence.

The action plan for 2015 includes 15 CEO initiatives, supported by 59 division strategies and 80 milestones to be monitored throughout the year. Progress on those milestones is reported back to the board each quarter.

The 2015 CEO initiatives include:

Mobility

- Advance delivery of M2020 program
- Optimize transportation systems
- Strengthen strategic partnerships

Public services

- Preserve and enhance the public trust
- Connect transportation networks that link people, places and work
- Modernize access to transportation information

Fiscal sustainability

- Safeguard taxpayer transportation dollars
- Ensure a fiscally sustainable transit system
- Advocate for stable, long-term transportation funding solutions

Stewardship

- Deliver on the promises of Measure M
- Promote environmentally friendly initiatives
- Expand active transportation strategies

Organizational excellence

- Demonstrate a safety conscious culture
- Attract and retain a diverse and engaged workforce
- Leverage technology to improve business operations.