

## **Meeting of Oct. 27, 2014**

### **New Buses Coming Soon**

The board has approved a \$116 million purchase for 212 new compressed natural gas-powered buses, which will replace 192 liquefied natural gas-powered buses and 10 diesel buses that are ready to be retired.

New Flyer of America, Inc. will provide the new buses to OCTA. The 40-foot buses will be equipped with standard OCTA configuration, rear door monitors, Q-pod wheelchair securement, automatic passenger counters and will be 8 percent lighter than previous models.

The fixed-route fleet operates 77 routes and requires 556 buses. The LNG and diesel buses are nearing the end of their useful life and the diesel buses must be replaced in order to adhere to current air quality standards.

Delivery of the new buses will begin in November 2015 and will be complete by July 2017.

### **I-405 Improvement Project Moving Ahead**

The Interstate 405 Improvement project between State Route 55 and Interstate 605 is moving forward with environmental clearance, property acquisition and a request for design-build teams.

OCTA is anticipating environmental clearance in early 2015 and is in the process of evaluating project property impacts in anticipation of potential early property acquisition.

A Request for Qualifications for a design-build firm for the 405 project was also recently released. Selecting the firm is a two-step process. The first step consists of issuing the RFQ, receiving the statements of qualifications from design-build firms, and developing a short-list based on specific requirements, which include qualifications, past project performance, organization, management and project understanding and approach.

The second step includes a Request for Proposals to the short-listed firms, and then the evaluation of price and technical bids submitted.

The final request for proposals will be released mid-2015, and it is estimated that the project contract will be awarded the second quarter of 2016.

### **CEO Details Action Plan Milestones Completed during Third Quarter**

CEO Darrell Johnson reported that 11 of 88 milestones in the Chief Executive Officer's action plan were completed during the third quarter.

Accomplishments included the opening of the Sand Canyon grade separation to traffic, the completion of the Coyote Creek portion of the OC Bike Loop and the release of the 3-foot for safety video.

OCTA also released the environmental report for the Santa Ana (I-5) project between SR-55 and SR-57, launched the Human Trafficking Awareness campaign and provided the first grants to local agencies for bus shelter improvements through the renewal of Measure M. In addition, 18 Measure M water quality improvement projects were approved for funding, and OCTA hosted a series of informative tours through its protected wilderness preserves to promote environmental sustainability.

For the third quarter, 21 milestones were scheduled to be completed. The remaining 10 milestones scheduled for completion during the third quarter will be carried over to the fourth quarter or the next fiscal year due to adjusted timetables.