

2022

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS
REPORT**

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY



KEEPING ORANGE COUNTY MOVING

The Orange County Transportation Authority is the county transportation planning commission, responsible for funding and implementing transit and capital projects for a balanced and sustainable transportation system that reflects the diverse travel needs of the county's 34 cities and 3.2 million residents.

This year was filled with accomplishments and was capped off with OCTA celebrating its 50th anniversary of providing bus service in Orange County – starting in 1972 with the formation of OCTA's predecessor agency, the Orange County Transit District.

Continuing this long-standing tradition of providing essential bus service, the OCTA Board of Directors unveiled its strategic initiatives

at the beginning of the year. These initiatives focused on continuing to build an equitable transportation network while remaining fiscally conservative with taxpayer dollars and protecting the environment that makes Orange County such a special place to live.

This report highlights many of the milestones and accomplishments that were achieved throughout the year under the guidance and direction of the OCTA Board's strategic initiatives.



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MAXIMIZE EFFECTIVENESS OF MOBILITY OPTIONS

- Commemorated 50 years of providing bus service in Orange County with a video, dedicated webpage, social media campaign and milestone event with current and former transportation leaders.
- Conducted bus ride-alongs, pop-up events and community meetings, along with online engagement, culminating in more than 11,000 responses to OCTA's Making Better Connections study to redesign the transit network.
- Permanently added OCTA's Youth Ride Free Program, following a six-month trial promotion, making OCTA the first large transit agency in the region to offer free bus rides to all youth under 18 on an ongoing basis.
- Completed enrollment of all nine Orange County community colleges in the College Pass Program, a shared-cost program that allows enrolled community-college students to travel on any OC Bus for free.



“
OCTA's College Pass Program was honored with the Orange County Business Council's Sustainable and Green Development award for helping to reduce more than 4,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
”

- Launched Bravo! Route 553, which will be OCTA's first all-electric limited-stop service on Main Street, providing zero-emission bus service from Anaheim to Santa Ana.
- Surpassed 100,000 average weekday OC Bus boardings for the first time since the start of the pandemic, following the introduction of discount passes and programs to make riding the bus free for tens of thousands of college students and youth throughout Orange County.
- Recorded more than one million boardings with OCTA's Value Pass that was introduced in the summer to help alleviate high gas prices.

DELIVER MEASURE M INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Completed construction of the Westminster Boulevard and Fairview Road bridges, as well as the Heil Avenue pedestrian bridge, which are among the 18 bridges being replaced as part of the I-405 Improvement Project.



- The project is more than 85 percent complete, with a total of 11 bridges finished and the remainder under construction.
- 95 percent of wall and ramp reconstruction is complete along with more than 85 percent of the project's paving.
 - ◆ Substantial completion and opening of the 405 Express Lanes is expected in late 2023.
- Accomplished more than 60 percent completion of the I-5 Freeway Improvement Project from State Route 73 to El Toro Road.
- Broke ground on the SR-55 (I-405 to I-5) Improvement Project – shifting traffic, clearing vegetation, and initiating roadway excavation for construction of three retaining walls along northbound SR-55 between MacArthur Boulevard and Dyer Road.
- Finalized improvements at the Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station, in coordination with Metrolink and the City of Anaheim.



- This project enhances train service and accommodates future demand by extending the existing platform, constructing a second platform, reconstructing two railroad crossings, and installing a new siding track.
- Achieved nearly 75 percent completion of OC Streetcar Project construction.
 - Major activities completed or ongoing include the Santa Ana River and Westminster Avenue bridges, the Maintenance and Storage Facility, grading and drainage systems along the Pacific Electric right-of-way, overhead contact system pole foundations and track installation.
 - All eight OC Streetcar vehicles are in various stages of production and testing.
- Reached a \$1 billion milestone investment of Measure M funds in local streets to help keep Orange County's pavement condition the best in the state.
- Awarded \$26.4 million of Measure M funding to cities



“Orange County maintains an average weighted pavement condition index score of 79 compared to the state average of 66.”

throughout Orange County for projects that will help ease traffic by making improvements to streets, intersections, and the timing of traffic lights.

CONNECT WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN DIVERSE AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

- Strengthened relationships with community members and organizations representing various ethnic, disadvantaged, and other under-represented groups.
- Completed the first phase of a trust-building campaign to connect with underserved communities, attending 125 events and engaging with 2,350 minority business owners and more than 27,000 diverse community members.
- Exchanged ideas and solicited feedback from the Diverse Community Leaders group to ensure local ethnic communities and hard-to-reach stakeholders receive equitable transportation solutions.



DEMONSTRATE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND RESPONSIBLY ADMINISTER PUBLIC FUNDS

- Approved a \$1.65 billion balanced budget, making significant investments in public transit and improvements to Orange County's streets and freeways to keep the county moving safely and efficiently.
- Negotiated and reached new agreements with coach operators, parts clerks and facilities technicians, as well as maintenance workers, including mechanics and service workers, to ensure the continuation of safe and reliable OC Bus service that is essential to the people of Orange County.
- Delivered the Measure M transportation investment plan as promised to the voters of Orange County for the 31st consecutive year, as determined by the Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee.
- Submitted the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program project list and financial plan.

“Received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute for the 12th year in a row - one of only 171 agencies in the US and Canada.”



- Approved \$6.5 million in State of Good Repair funding recommendations for construction of a Transit Security and Operations Center, a heating-ventilation unit replacement at OCTA's Santa Ana Bus Base, and a bus engine repower/rebuild contract.

ANTICIPATE AND ADAPT TO CHANGING CONDITIONS

- Initiated an emergency construction project to stabilize the railroad track through southern San Clemente in an effort to safely restore passenger rail service.
- Continued the public input process on OCTA's 2022 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which is conducted every four years to define a vision for the way people move in Orange County.
- Concluded the South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study to determine long-term transportation needs and develop solutions in south Orange County.



- Completed the SR-91 Multimodal Corridor Plan to improve options and provide transportation choices along the SR-91 corridor.
- Finalized the Orange County Mobility Hubs Study as a potential strategy for bringing together various mobility services in one place to connect travelers more conveniently.

ADVOCATE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Awarded \$2.5 million in Federal Transit Administration funding for the purchase of 10 battery-electric zero-emission paratransit buses to replace an equal number of gasoline-powered vehicles in the OC ACCESS fleet.
- Approved grant funding allocations for 13 water quality projects totaling approximately \$3.1 million to improve overall water quality in Orange County from transportation-related pollution.
- Received nine plug-in battery-electric buses and introduced two into the OC Bus fleet as part of a pilot



program of plug-in battery-electric buses that will be tested along with hydrogen fuel-cell electric buses to determine OCTA's best zero-emission path forward.

- Honored with the Transit and Mobility Award from the Advanced Clean Transportation Expo – North America's largest event celebrating transportation technology and clean fleets – for OCTA's sustainable bus efforts.
- Presented with a 2022 Sustainability Award from the Southern California Association of Governments for an OCTA-funded habitat restoration project in San Juan Capistrano.
- Received the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Innovative Transportation Solutions Award for OCTA's initial efforts to convert the OC Bus fleet to zero-emission technology by 2040.



COLLABORATE WITH REGIONAL SHAREHOLDERS AND PROVIDE OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Participated in two Orange County Community Roundtable Listening Sessions for elected officials and community leaders hosted by California's Infrastructure Advisor Antonio Villaraigosa to help identify priority projects and maximize access to federal funding across all regions of the state.
- Hosted an elected officials' roundtable to get feedback on Orange County's transportation infrastructure from representatives throughout the county.
- Partnered with Saddleback College to offer free training to create a pipeline of candidates interested in careers as bus drivers.

EMBRACE INCLUSIVE WORK CULTURE AND ENHANCE DIVERSITY

- Launched an online version of unconscious bias training for all new administrative employees.



- Completed an agency-wide assessment to ensure ongoing implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts.
- Completed a major update to OCTA's DEI website.

MODERNIZE WORKPLACE AND PROMOTE EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Graduated the fourth cohort of OCTA's internal Management Development Academy to continue providing professional development to employees.
- Completed cybersecurity training for all OCTA employees to increase awareness about the importance of utilizing best practices to defend against cyberattacks and staying safe online.
- Renewed employee health insurance programs as part of OCTA's commitment to providing sustainable, cost-effective, and valuable long-term benefits.



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2022
A PROGRESS REPORT ON OCTA ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

550 S. MAIN STREET • ORANGE, CA 92868 • WWW.OCTA.NET

