

## **Meeting of Sept. 13, 2021**

### **Board Receives Update on South County Transportation Study**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors received an update on a study to address south Orange County's transportation needs as the area continues to grow and as travel patterns evolve.

The study, called the South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study, is looking at a wide range of transportation needs and solutions over the next 25 years, including improvements to streets, transit, highways and bikeways.

As part of its comprehensive efforts to engage the public, OCTA conducted an online survey earlier this year asking respondents to prioritize potential future improvements to transportation in south Orange County. More than 1,700 people responded to the survey, and a majority would like OCTA to:

- Increase the availability and make improvements to public transit
- Provide additional alternatives to driving, including trolleys, biking, light rail and walking
- Offer flexible roadway pricing based on demand

During the next few months, OCTA will continue to engage with the public and other stakeholders to guide the development of potential transportation improvements.

Improvements being considered include:

- Expanding the OC Flex on-demand microtransit program and community shuttles
- Investing in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Making improvements to existing streets

After evaluating potential improvements and receiving input from stakeholders, a set of recommended strategies will be brought to the OCTA board for consideration later this year.

For more information on this study, visit [octa.net/SouthOCStudy](https://octa.net/SouthOCStudy).

### **OCTA to Provide Additional Bus Service Next Month**

OCTA will begin providing additional bus service on Oct. 10 to address anticipated increase in ridership demand as activities continue to resume and increase throughout the county.

OCTA implements regular schedule and route revisions to selected OC Bus routes three times a year, in February, June and October. In August, OCTA implemented a special service change in response to increased demand because of the return of in-person learning for most schools, colleges and universities.

The October bus service change will provide more frequent service, expanded hours of operations and schedule adjustments.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, OCTA has remained flexible and committed to protecting the health of the public and employees. That initially meant reducing service to encourage the public to only

take essential trips, and adding numerous safety measures to OC Buses, including hand-sanitizer stations and free face coverings for those who needed them.

Safety remains the priority and masks are still required to be worn aboard all OC Bus and OC ACCESS paratransit buses.

For more information on OC Bus service, visit [OCBus.com](https://ocbus.com).

### **OCTA Using Creative Financing to Save \$20 Million on 405 Project**

The OCTA board is moving forward with the issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes to support the I-405 Improvement Project to help save an additional \$20 million.

The savings are in addition to savings realized through the reset of the agency's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan for the project. Last week, OCTA reset the interest rate on its loan, helping save an additional \$158 million over the life of the loan.

Bond Anticipation Notes are a short-term financing tool used during the construction of projects. The issuance of these notes will allow OCTA to take advantage of lower short-term interest rates over the next three years instead of drawing on its TIFIA loan.

The I-405 Improvement Project will add one regular lane in each direction of I-405 between Euclid Streets and I-605, and a second lane in each direction in the center of the freeway from SR-73 to I-605 that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes.

For more information on the I-405 Improvement Project, visit [octa.net/405improvement](https://octa.net/405improvement).