

## **Meeting of Nov. 8, 2021**

### **Board Receives Update on Efforts to Synchronize Traffic Signals**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors received an update on a program dedicated to coordinating traffic signals throughout the county to improve the flow of traffic.

The Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program is funded in part by Measure M, also known as OC Go, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, with additional funding from local cities, the county and Caltrans.

Since 2008, OCTA, working with cities and the county, has completed 94 signal synchronization projects. These projects have synchronized 3,265 intersections, improving travel times, reducing congestion, and increasing the number of successive green lights drivers hit during their daily commutes.

The completed projects have:

- Reduced average travel time by 12 percent and the average number of stops by 28 percent
- Saved drivers approximately \$201 million on fuel costs
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 1 billion pounds over three years by reducing the number of stops and the need to accelerate and decelerate vehicles

OCTA is currently working on an additional 26 signal synchronization projects.

### **I-405 Improvement Project Construction Progresses**

The OCTA board received an update on construction of the I-405 Improvement Project, which is improving a 16-mile stretch of the freeway between Costa Mesa and the Orange County border with Los Angeles County.

The project is adding one regular lane in each direction between Euclid Street to 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.

Recent updates include:

- More than 67 percent of the project is complete
- Six of 18 bridge replacements are complete and open to traffic
- Three additional bridge replacements will be complete by the end of the year
- All remaining bridges will be under construction by the end of 2021
- The new TIFIA loan with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Build America Bureau reset with a lower interest rate, helping save an additional \$158 million

The project is anticipated to be completed in 2023.

For updates and more information on the project, visit [octa.net/405improvement](https://octa.net/405improvement).

## **Board Receives Quarterly Progress Report on CEO Action Plan**

OCTA's board received a progress report on the 2021 Board and CEO Initiatives that highlights the agency's accomplishments from July 1 through Sept. 30.

Accomplishments include:

- Expanded the College Bus Pass Program to provide free bus rides to students enrolled at Irvine Valley College
- Procured a consultant to review and assess OCTA's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts
- Awarded a new service agreement for the OC ACCESS paratransit and OC Flex microtransit operations
- Initiated the 2018-21 Measure M Triennial Performance Assessment

As OCTA enters the last quarter of 2021, it will continue advancing the Board and CEO Initiatives while addressing the immediate needs of the public, its customers and its employees to keep Orange County moving.