

Meeting of Dec. 12, 2022

OCTA Board Approves Maintenance Employee Contract

The Orange County Transportation Authority and the union representing OCTA's maintenance employees have reached a deal on terms on a new contract, ensuring that buses will keep running for the thousands of Orange County passengers who rely on bus service.

The deal was reached following months of face-to-face talks and recent negotiations through a mediator that led to a tentative agreement last week.

The three-year deal with OCTA's 150 maintenance workers gives them a 5% raise over each of the next three years, includes a \$1,250 signing bonus and reduces the amount employees pay for medical benefits. The new contract will run through the end of 2025.

Board Commemorates Outgoing Members

The OCTA Board of Directors presented resolutions of appreciation to outgoing board members Director Lisa A. Bartlett, Chairman Mark A. Murphy, and former Director Tim Shaw.

Director Bartlett, also Orange County's Fifth District Supervisor, has served eight years on the OCTA board. In her time at OCTA, Director Bartlett demonstrated leadership in roles such as Chairwoman of the Board, Executive Committee, Legislative and Communications Committee, and Environmental Oversight Committee, as well as Vice Chair of the Regional Planning and Highways Committee. Additionally, Director Bartlett has been instrumental in helping to build consensus and coalitions to advance transportation projects that improve regional mobility, playing an integral role in the launch of the OC Flex microtransit program.

Chairman Murphy, also the mayor of Orange, has served six years on the OCTA board. During his tenure, Chairman Murphy has not only served as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Regional Planning and Highways Committee, but also as a member of the Legislative and Communications Committee, SR-91 Advisory Committee, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency, and Southern California Regional Rail Authority. Chairman Murphy championed OCTA's commitment to environmental sustainability, helping OCTA debut one of the largest transit-operated hydrogen fueling stations in the nation and adding 10 hydrogen fuel-cell electric buses to the OC Bus fleet.

Director Shaw, member on the Board of Trustees at the Orange County Board of Education, has served nine years on the OCTA board. He took on the roles of Chairman of the Board, Executive Committee and Transit Committee, as well as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee, Legislative and Communications Committee, SR-91 Advisory Committee, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency and Mobile Source Review Committee. Through his commitment to the board, Director Shaw supported the improvement of the environment and air quality for Orange County residents by leading the overall investment of more than \$400 million in clean transportation initiatives that reduce air pollution.

Board Recognizes December Employees of the Month

The OCTA board recognized three employees of the month for December.

The honors went to:

- Rong Ith, a coach operator who started at OCTA in 1998. Rong is an exemplary coach operator who can be relied upon to take additional work shifts and always provides excellent customer service. Rong believes in safety first and has used his driving skills to achieve 22 years of safe driving.
- Travis Corey, a master transit bus technician. Since joining OCTA in 2013, Travis has served as a coach operator, apprentice mechanic, and journeyman mechanic. Travis is highly knowledgeable and has been a key contributor helping the rebuild section with the ongoing engine repower program.
- Amelia Hsu, a principal marketing specialist who joined OCTA in 2014. Amelia has demonstrated outstanding teamwork and has a can-do spirit delivering wide-ranging marketing and communications programs. This year, Amelia led the public outreach for the Making Better Connections study which resulted in more than 11,000 public comments received.