

Meeting of July 10, 2023

Board Reviews 2023 Strategic Initiatives Mid-Year Report

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors received an update highlighting the agency's progress on the 2023 Board and CEO Initiatives and Action Plan for the first half of the year.

The initiatives and action plan, approved by the board in January, include 98 milestones to be accomplished throughout the year. In the first six months of 2023, 25 of the milestones have been completed.

Highlights include:

- The Goldenwest Street bridge was completed and opened to traffic in June as part of the I-405 Improvement Project.
- The board awarded \$33.5 million to seven projects that will improve busy streets and intersections through the Measure M Regional Capacity Program.
- The board awarded \$3.7 million to three projects that will synchronize traffic signals throughout the county through the Measure M Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program.
- The board approved a \$1.7 billion balanced budget for fiscal year 2022-23, making significant investments in public transit and improvements to Orange County's freeways and streets to keep the county moving safely and efficiently.
- OCTA saved \$5.5 million following the refinancing of the 91 Express Lanes bonds.
- The board approved the final draft of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, which was submitted to the Southern California Association of Governments as input into the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

OCTA Makes Progress on SR-55 Improvement Project

The OCTA board approved entering into a \$6 million cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the SR-55 Improvement Project between I-5 and SR-91.

The agreement will initiate the project's right-of-way phase by defining roles, responsibilities and funding obligations for support services, engineering, acquisition and utility relocation.

The SR-55 Improvement Project will add a regular lane in each direction between I-5 and SR-22 and make improvements to the southbound ramps at Katella and Lincoln avenues.

The project is funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

Right-of-way activities are anticipated to begin this summer once the project's design is 65% complete.

Board Approves Collaboration with Caltrans on SR-91 Improvements

Plans to improve SR-91 between SR-55 and Lakeview Avenue progressed as OCTA entered into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to define the roles and responsibilities of each agency.

The SR-91 Improvement Project will ease congestion and improve the flow of traffic by adding a regular lane in the eastbound direction between La Palma Avenue and SR-55 and providing westbound improvements between Acacia Street and La Palma Avenue and between SR-55 and Lakeview Avenue.

Caltrans will be responsible for the advertisement and award of the construction contract. The construction contract for the first segment of the project is expected to be advertised in the fall.

The project is funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.