

## **Meeting of September 25, 2023**

### **OCTA Reappoints Public Board Member Hennessey**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors reappointed Michael Hennessey to serve as one of two public members on the board, with a new term running through 2027.

Hennessey has served on the OCTA board since 2011 and previously served as the board chairman in 2017. As a resident of the city of Orange and business owner, Hennessey holds extensive real estate experience in the areas of development, real property acquisition, relocation, and community outreach.

In his role as a public member, Hennessey will continue to contribute to shaping transportation policies and programs aligned with the objectives of Measure M, a critical half-cent sales tax initiative. Public members serve four-year terms and are eligible to seek re-selection for additional terms.

The OCTA board is composed of all five Orange County supervisors, 10 elected city council members representing all regions of the county, and two members of the public, as well as a non-voting member representing Caltrans. Business and community leader Tam Nguyen is the other public member on the OCTA board.

### **Board Honors September Employees of the Month**

The OCTA Board recognized three employees of the month for September.

The honors went to:

- Manuel "Manny" Lara, a coach operator at the Santa Ana base who started at OCTA in 1995. He is an excellent employee who regularly volunteers to cover open assignments on his days off and shares his knowledge as a behind-the-wheel trainer. Manny has made OCTA's Rodeo team seven times and has transported dignitaries for the funerals of both former President Gerald Ford and First Lady Betty Ford. Manny recently achieved 25 years of safe driving.
- Carlos Palacios, a journeyman mechanic who joined OCTA in 2003 as a service worker. He is currently assigned to the engine repower project, replacing engines on 173 buses with the new near-zero emission engines. Carlos routinely completes the engine replacements faster than average, greatly improving the performance of the bus fleet.
- Chris Martin, a maintenance supervisor supporting both the Garden Grove and Santa Ana bases, joined OCTA in 2017. When OCTA's maintenance resource management section experienced vacancies earlier this year, he took the initiative volunteering his time and energy to help. Chris has been a huge asset assisting as a senior fleet analyst, quickly identifying resources and working collaboratively with other departments.

## **OCTA Board Accepts \$42 million Grant for SR-91 Improvements**

OCTA'S board accepted a \$42.5 million grant awarded to the SR-91 Improvement Project by the California Transportation Commission through the SB1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program.

The funds will support the SR-91 project that will make improvements between SR-55 and Lakeview Avenue. The project will construct a new drop ramp, providing drivers with direct access from Lakeview Avenue to southbound SR-55. The project will also replace the Lakeview Avenue bridge, improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, reconfigure the ramps and separate traffic on westbound SR-91 from southbound SR-55.

The project will be delivered in partnership with Caltrans as part of a State Highway Operation and Protection Program-funded project. All improvements are expected to significantly enhance mobility, safety, increase access to jobs, healthcare facilities, and educational facilities, and facilitate goods movement.

## **OCTA Board Approves Request for Proposals for SR-91 Project**

The OCTA board released a request for proposals for construction management support services for the SR-91 Improvement Project between Acacia Street and La Palma Avenue.

The project will make improvements to westbound SR-91 between Acacia Street and La Palma Avenue and reconstruct the La Palma Avenue overcrossing bridge. It will also create a new bypass ramp that allows northbound SR-57 traffic to exit at Orangethorpe Avenue in advance of SR-91, eliminating the need to merge across multiple lanes at the interchange.

The project, an important part of Measure M – Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation – is expected to begin construction in 2025.