

## **Meeting of March 25, 2024**

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

The Orange County Transportation Authority board recognized three employees of the month for March.

The honors went to:

- Jose Contreras, a coach operator who started at OCTA in 1998. Jose recently achieved 25 years of safe driving at OCTA and is known for going above and beyond in his role while also demonstrating excellent customer service.
- Robert Rodriguez, a journeyman mechanic who started at OCTA in 2016. Robert has a can-do spirit and is always willing to assist others on his team. He recently was able to troubleshoot a wiper assembly issue, leading to a quick resolution.
- Elia Verduzco, a community relations specialist who is part of OCTA's diversity outreach team. Elia frequently represents OCTA at events throughout Orange County.

### **OCTA Takes Step Toward a Zero-Emission Future**

The OCTA board released an invitation for bids to procure 11 chargers for its fleet of plug-in battery electric buses.

These chargers will be installed at the Santa Ana bus base to support 10 new battery electric buses that will be added to OCTA's fleet. Additional chargers will be located at OCTA's Garden Grove base, providing more flexibility to deploy battery-electric buses to multiple locations and on various routes.

OCTA is committed to transitioning to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. OCTA is currently testing both hydrogen fuel-cell and battery-electric buses to determine which zero-emission technology, or mix of technologies, works best for Orange County.

### **Minor Updates Coming to OC Bus Schedule in May**

The OCTA board received an update on service changes coming to OC Bus on May 12.

The service change consists of minor adjustments based on feedback from passengers and coach operators. Updates are typically implemented four times a year in February, May, August and November.

The updates coming in May focus on adjustments to improve on-time performance and to better align with school schedules on routes 30, 37, 43, 46, 50, 53, 59, 60, 64, 71, 79, 83, 167, 178, 529 and 543.

No routes will be discontinued or realigned. Routes 1, 29, 47 and 89 are transitioning to the seasonal summer schedule to account for increased traffic near beaches.

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