

Meeting of June 24, 2024

OCTA Approves 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors approved a \$1.7 billion balanced budget for fiscal year 2024-25.

The approved budget makes significant investments in public transit – totaling approximately 52% of the overall budget – and makes improvements to Orange County's freeways and streets to keep the county moving safely and efficiently.

Overall, the fiscal year budget represents approximately a \$58 million increase (about 3.4%) over the previous year's budget. This mirrors a similar budget increase last year, which followed two years of budget cuts largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Honors June Employees of the Month

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

The honors went to:

- David An, a coach operator at the Garden Grove base who joined OCTA in 2019. He is an outstanding employee with four years of safe driving. David recently went above and beyond by helping translate for an elderly man who had been reported as missing, which led to the man being reunited with his family.
- Cuong Quach, a journeyman mechanic at the Garden Grove base. Cuong regularly displays a can-do spirit and is always willing to assist others. His willingness to share his knowledge is crucial to the success of OCTA's apprentice mechanic and mechanic helper programs.
- Sahara "Sara" Meisenheimer, a board specialist in the Clerk of the Board's office. Sara started at OCTA as an intern in the maintenance department in 1998. She consistently demonstrates the highest level of integrity and plays an integral role in ensuring OCTA's board and committee meetings run smoothly.

Board Names New Taxpayer Oversight Committee Members, Recognizes Teen Council

The OCTA board appointed four new members to the Taxpayer Oversight Committee and recognized the efforts of the Teen Council at Monday's meeting.

The TOC is an independent committee that upholds the integrity of Measure M funds, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation. The committee ensures that all revenue collected from Measure M is spent on voter-approved transportation projects.

The new members are:

- District 1, Clayton D. King, Huntington Beach

- District 2, James Fuchs, Santa Ana
- District 4, James K. Evans, Brea
- District 5, Robert Dorneman, Dana Point

OCTA's Teen Council is made up of high school students that meets every other month to discuss a variety of topics surrounding transportation in Orange County, including land use, environmental equity and impact, transportation planning, funding, legislation, marketing, ridesharing and transit modes.

Twenty-two Teen Council members were recognized for their contributions throughout the year, including assisting with OCTA social media videos and volunteering at outreach events.

For more information on the TOC, visit octa.net/TOC. For information on Teen Council, visit octa.net/TeenCouncil.