

## **Meeting of Sept. 9, 2024**

### **August Employees of the Month**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board recognized three employees of the month for August.

The honors went to:

- Almeta Carter, a coach operator who works out of the Garden Grove bus base. Almeta was recognized for her commendable customer service and for achieving 19 years of safe driving.
- Liborio Mendoza, a maintenance employee, is being recognized for his leadership and can-do spirit. Liborio helps ensure that buses are cleaned and ready to provide safe and reliable service to Orange County.
- Alison Army, a principal transportation analyst, is being recognized for her role on projects including the Coastal Rail Resiliency Study, which is looking at how to protect rail service through south Orange County.

### **Board Receives Traffic Signal Synchronization Program Update**

The OCTA board received an update on the traffic signal synchronization program, which is funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

The program funds projects that synchronize traffic signals to ensure drivers hit the most green lights during peak traffic hours, helping to improve travel times, reduce congestion and make trips easier for everyone.

Since 2008, OCTA has allocated approximately \$102.6 million for 107 signal synchronization projects, covering 3,705 intersections and 954 miles of streets, and an additional 26 projects are currently in progress or planned.

These efforts have resulted in notable improvements, including:

- 13% reduction in travel time
- 29% percent decrease in stop
- 14% percent increase in average speed

The projects have also helped Orange County drivers save more than \$240 million in fuel costs, while also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## **OCTA Board Accepts Grants to Advance Sustainability Efforts**

The OCTA board accepted \$1.2 million in grants to support two projects aimed at building a balanced and sustainable transportation system for Orange County.

A \$1 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will help fund the OC Connect project, which is in the environmental phase. This project aims to build a 4-mile biking and walking trail connecting Garden Grove and Santa Ana, while also linking to the Santa Ana River Trail and the countywide 66-mile OC Loop bikeway.

In addition, a \$200,000 grant from Caltrans will support updates to OCTA's zero-emission bus transition plan. Originally developed in 2020, the plan outlines OCTA's path toward a fully zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. The update will assess the progress of zero-emission bus technology, consider the best mix of technology for OCTA, and explore the feasibility of upgrading infrastructure at OCTA's bus bases.