

## **Meeting of April 28, 2025**

### **April Employees of the Month Recognized**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors recognized three employees of the month for April.

- Phil Polanco, a coach operator, joined OCTA in February 2022 and works at the Garden Grove Base. In addition to his regular duties, Phil also trains and mentors new operators as a line captain and behind-the-wheel instructor.
- Dexter Ta, the maintenance employee of the month, began his career at OCTA in May 2001. Dexter helps keep buses clean and operating reliably each day and plays a key role in supporting mechanics and training new service workers to keep operations running smoothly.
- Phil Zirges, the administrative employee of the month, started at OCTA in 2008 as a maintenance instructor, specializing in electrical and electronics systems. He helps mechanics build their technical skills by making complex topics clear and easy to understand and has developed training standards to support the safe servicing of zero-emission buses.

### **Passenger Rail Service to be Temporarily Halted through San Clemente to Allow for Emergency Reinforcement**

The OCTA Board received an update on emergency efforts to protect the only coastal rail link between San Diego and Orange counties, which faces ongoing threats from bluff collapses, erosion, and storm surges.

Starting Monday, April 28, passenger rail service through San Clemente will be suspended for about six weeks to allow crews to safely stabilize the most at-risk sections of track. Construction work includes repairing and reinforcing coastal protection in three key areas, placing sand and constructing a catchment wall to prevent landslide debris from reaching the tracks.

During construction, Metrolink will continue to operate trains traveling southbound to as far as the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo station. For updates, on Metrolink service, visit [metrolinktrains.com/service-updates](https://metrolinktrains.com/service-updates).

Amtrak Pacific Surfliner will continue to operate modified service, with bus connections provided between Irvine and Oceanside. For schedule updates, visit [pacificsurfliner.com/alerts](https://pacificsurfliner.com/alerts).

These critical repairs are being made under emergency permits to protect passenger and freight service, public safety, and the long-term future of the rail line. For construction updates, visit [www.octa.net/RailEmergency](http://www.octa.net/RailEmergency).