

Meeting of March 13, 2017

Angels Express on Track for Two More Years

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors agreed to accept a more than \$500,000 grant to operate the Angels Express service on Metrolink for the upcoming season as well as the 2018 season. The grant is from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

During the two Angels seasons, a total of 110 weekday home games are expected to be served by the Angels Express service, a partnership of OCTA and Metrolink. The popular service recorded 42,000 boardings last season and gave fans a convenient and affordable alternative to driving to the games. The special Angels Express fare is \$7 roundtrip, \$6 for seniors and those with disabilities, and \$4 for children 6 to 18.

To ensure all of the air quality grant funds are used to reduce emissions, the trains used on the service will be Metrolink's Tier 2 locomotives, which are twice as clean in terms of generating particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen when compared to the remainder of the Metrolink fleet.

The Angels Express kicks off with the home opener on April 7. For more information, visit: www.octa.net/Angels

OCTA Signal Synch Program Saves Time and Money

The board received an update on OCTA's signal synchronization program, which has completed 59 projects since 2008.

A key part of Measure M to improve traffic on local streets, the program had an initial goal of synchronizing 2,000 intersections over the 30-year life of Measure M. That target has been met years ahead of schedule with \$36 million going to synchronize 2,068 intersections by December 2016.

The 59 projects, which cover 540 miles, have reduced average travel time by 13 percent, the average number of stops have been cut by 31 percent and average speeds have improved by 15 percent. Over a three-year period, drivers will save approximately \$95.7 million in fuel costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 667 million pounds.

OCTA is currently funding an additional 29 signal synchronization projects that are in various stages of implementation. The total cost of these projects is \$54 million and primarily funded by the Measure M half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. Once completed, these projects will synchronize an additional 998 signals and 267 miles of roads.

Water Quality Projects on Tap through Measure M

The board issued a call for projects for the Environmental Cleanup Program, which is funded by Measure M to improve overall water quality in Orange County.

This latest call for projects will award \$3.1 million to projects that improve water quality in streams, harbors and other waterways that have a nexus to transportation-related pollution. To date, cities and the county have received \$16.4 million to fund 131 projects.

OCTA staff will work with local agencies on the application process and the submissions are due by May 17. The applications will be reviewed and funding recommendations will go to the board for consideration this summer.