

Meeting of Jan. 12, 2015

New OCTA Board Chair and Vice Chair appointed

The board unanimously selected Irvine Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Lalloway to serve as chairman of the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors for 2015.

Lalloway served as the OCTA board's vice chairman for the last year. He replaces outgoing Chairman Shawn Nelson, also the county's Fourth District Supervisor, who remains on the board.

Lalloway has served on the Irvine City Council since December 2010. He has served on the OCTA board since January 2013. He is an active cyclist and enthusiastic about enhancing all of Orange County's transportation options.

Replacing Lalloway as vice chairman is Director Lori Donchak, who is a member of the San Clemente City Council. She joined the OCTA board in January 2013.

Also sworn in during the first board meeting of 2015 was Director Michelle Steel, also the county's Second District Supervisor.

Year-end Report Summarizes 2014 Accomplishments

CEO Darrell Johnson presented the board with a video slideshow to review a wide range of accomplishments in the past year based on the 2014 board initiatives.

Those accomplishments included:

- Delivering freeway improvements – That included eight new lane miles on the 57 freeway. Opening the West County Connectors project that links carpool lanes on the I-405, I-605 and SR-22, one of the busiest stretches of freeway in the nation. Breaking ground on the I-5 South project to increase capacity and ease traffic congestion between San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente.
- Improving bus services and maximizing transit services – This was done by approving \$1.2 million so that cities could improve their transit stops – 51 projects in all. To ensure financial sustainability, more fixed-route bus services were contracted, bringing the total number contracted to a private vendor to nearly 28 percent. The radio system was upgraded on more than 500 buses. And 212 buses that run on compressed natural gas were purchased to make OCTA's bus line cleaner and more efficient.
- Launching and continuing several special programs demonstrating that OCTA is a responsible participant in the community – Those programs included the "Be The One" campaign, to help curb the crime of human trafficking in Orange County by increasing public awareness through marketing in and on OCTA buses and training coach operators to spot and report human trafficking crimes.

- Optimizing the street system – OCTA synchronized 150 traffic signals and awarded \$35.8 million to cities for arterial street improvements. The O.C. Bridges program, reducing pollution and enhancing safety by separating train and car traffic with a series of bridges and underpasses, made significant progress and opened grade separations at Placentia and Kraemer avenues in Placentia and Anaheim, and Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine.
- Advancing active transportation programs – More than \$21 million in federal funds was secured to help advance 28 bicycle-related projects in Orange County. Several community forums were held to gather public opinion, to promote bike safety and to raise awareness about progress toward building a 66-mile O.C. Bike Loop. About 70 percent is already complete.

Angels Express to Return for 2015 Season

The board approved the use a \$239,645 grant to fund the return of the Angels Express service for the 2015 baseball season.

Last season, the special Metrolink train had a record-setting season with almost 44,000 boardings, taking Angel fans to the stadium while reducing air pollution by taking cars off the road. The grant is funded by the state's Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

The Angels Express will again take fans to all 48 regular season weekday home games that begin at 7:05 p.m. The service will run from April 1 to Sept. 30 and will run along the Orange County Line between the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo station and the Anaheim station in the south and between Anaheim and Los Angeles Union Station to the north.

The service also will have a limited run along the Inland Empire Line, operating from Downtown Riverside to Orange, then transferring to the Anaheim Station for 13 home games on Friday evenings.