

# 2014



## A PROGRESS REPORT ON OCTA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

View the video here:

[http://youtu.be/mv4SWbQOg\\_E](http://youtu.be/mv4SWbQOg_E)

OCTA is a multimodal transportation agency that serves Orange County residents and travelers by providing countywide bus and paratransit service, Metrolink rail service, the 91 Express Lanes, freeway, street and road improvement projects, commuting solutions for individuals and employers, motorist aid services, by regulating taxi operations, and administering Measure M, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

In 2014, OCTA continued its mission to serve the people of Orange County by delivering a wide variety of multimodal projects and transportation solutions. This progress report is organized around the eight initiatives adopted by the Board of Directors and is designed to highlight the numerous achievements OCTA accomplished that helped to keep Orange County moving in 2014 and beyond.



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## DELIVER FREEWAY IMPROVEMENTS



### Open new lanes on State Route 57 (SR-57)

A new eight-mile lane was completed in December as part of the SR-57 Northbound Improvement Project that accommodates a daily traffic volume of approximately 158,000 vehicles and expands a vital link for residents and businesses.

- A five-mile span between approximately State Route 91 (SR-91) and Lambert Road was completed in mid-2014.
- In November, a three-mile northbound general-purpose lane opened between Katella Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. This segment eases traffic near top entertainment and travel destinations.

### Break ground on Interstate 5 (I-5) projects

Divided into three segments, the I-5 South County Improvement Project will add approximately six miles of carpool lanes from San Juan Creek Road to Avenida Pico to help relieve congestion within the cities of San Clemente, Dana Point, and San Juan Capistrano.

- Two segments—San Juan Creek Road to Pacific Coast Highway, and Pacific Coast Highway to Avenida Vista Hermosa—broke ground in 2014.

### Open the West County Connectors Project

After four years of construction, all segments of the West County Connectors Project opened to traffic in December. The \$297 million project created direct connectors between the carpool lanes on three major freeways and added six miles of carpool lanes. Drivers are now able to seamlessly transition between Interstate 405 (I-405), Interstate 605 (I-605) and State Route 22 (SR-22) without having to exit the carpool lanes.

### Meet I-405 milestones

The San Diego Freeway (I-405) Improvement Project between State Route 55 (SR-55) and I-605 is designed to ease traffic on one of the nation's busiest freeways. This stretch of the I-405 carries more than 370,000 cars a day and that number is expected to increase approximately 35 percent by 2040.

- OCTA continued to move forward with this project throughout the year.
- Preliminary engineering work was initiated and the Board approved the release of the request for proposals (RFP) for construction management consultant services and the request for qualifications (RFQ) for design-build teams.

## Other freeway accomplishments

- The environmental report was released for the I-5 widening project between the SR-55 and the SR-57.
- The I-5/Ortega Highway Project is in the final year of construction following the rebuilding of the Ortega Highway bridge and reconstruction of the off-ramp.
- The I-5 widening project from Oso Parkway to Alicia Parkway entered the design phase in late October.

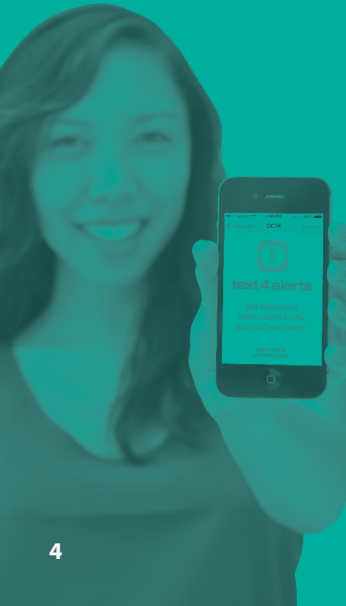
## Continue progress on the 91 Express Lanes

Construction began in early 2014 on an eight-mile extension of the 91 Express Lanes into Riverside. Led by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), this project is made possible in part by an operating agreement between OCTA, RCTC, and Cofiroute (operator of the 91 Express Lanes) that will save OCTA approximately \$9 million over five years.





## PROVIDE EFFICIENT, CUSTOMER- FRIENDLY BUS SERVICE



### Improve bus service and maximize transit resources

- In July, the Board approved more than \$1.2 million for city-initiated transit stop improvements and \$370,000 for OCTA-initiated transit stop improvements. Fifty-one projects in Anaheim, Brea, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, and Westminster will be funded per this approval.
- In December, Routes 50, 53, 143 and 430 were realigned to connect with the newly opened Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC).

### Fixed-route contracting on track

- In an effort to ensure fiscal sustainability, OCTA successfully transitioned 5.5 percent of its fixed-route bus service to an outside contractor bringing the total amount of contracted service to 27.7 percent.

### Implement Intelligent Transit Management System

OCTA installed an Intelligent Transit Management System on 536 fixed-route buses. This project upgrades the voice and data radio system on all OCTA vehicles.

### Transit service snapshot

- OCTA continues to be one of the top transit providers in the region with 48.9 million fixed-route passenger boardings and 1.3 million ACCESS boardings.
- In October, the Board approved the purchase of 212 compressed natural gas-powered buses. These buses increase the number of modern, clean-fuel vehicles in OCTA's fleet which helps to reduce emissions.
- Twenty new articulated compressed natural gas vehicles were deployed.
- In March, the Board approved the purchase of 99 replacement ACCESS buses to ensure service reliability.

### OC Fair Express sets another ridership record

- The OC Fair Express set a record in 2014 with nearly 77,000 trips to and from the Orange County Fair, a 31 percent increase compared to 2013.
- The OC Fair Express Mobile Ticketing App provided riders with a convenient way to purchase tickets and download bus passes directly to a smartphone.



## Creative technology helps riders use bus services

- In July, the Board authorized \$370,000 to enhance the Text4Next system that allows customers to receive bus arrival times via text message.
- The OCTA Adventure Series, a series of short online videos, took viewers aboard vanpool, carpool, train, bus, and bike journeys to broaden awareness of public transportation options in Orange County.

## Special programs target individual groups

- A number of incentives helped increase sales of the Summer Youth Pass by 13 percent, with 64 percent of sales transactions taking place at retail outlets.

## Human trafficking awareness campaign

- In August, OCTA launched a “Be The One” campaign to alert bus riders about human trafficking and to give riders and potential victims a phone number to call for help. A 40-foot bus was wrapped in a full “Be The One” campaign advertisement and buses throughout the county displayed interior cards with the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

## Service animal training

- This popular, free event offered trainers of service animals an opportunity to practice boarding and alighting a public transit bus.



## OPTIMIZE THE STREET SYSTEM

### **Open Kraemer, Placentia and Sand Canyon grade separations**

In 2014, OCTA improved public safety and the transport of goods by advancing the OC Bridges Program.

- The Placentia Avenue undercrossing was opened to motorists in March.
- In June, the Kraemer Boulevard undercrossing at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway tracks opened to traffic.
  - \* In December, the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) recognized the Kraemer Boulevard Grade Separation Project as the Project of the Year in its Transportation Category.
- In July, the Sand Canyon Boulevard undercrossing along the Los Angeles—San Diego—San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor in Irvine was opened to traffic.

### **Fund arterial system improvements**

- OCTA awarded \$35.8 million toward 17 street improvement projects.

### **Synchronize 150 traffic signals along five corridors**

- OCTA awarded \$8.4 million for ten multi-jurisdictional traffic signal synchronization projects.

### **Additional accomplishments achieved to enhance Orange County's street system**

- Completed the 2014 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to support a comprehensive slate of long-range transportation improvements for the county.
- Completed several planning studies to facilitate the implementation of the OC Bikeway Strategy.







## ENHANCE RAIL TRANSPORTATION

### Broaden and increase Metrolink usage and ridership

- Metrolink recorded more than 4.4 million boardings on the three lines serving Orange County.
- Summer weekend ridership totals increased by 14 percent compared to the previous year due in part to OCTA's Metrolink Summer Treasures promotion.
- For the second year in a row, the popular Angels Express broke ridership records with more than 43,000 boardings, a 29 percent increase from the previous season.
- New weekend service was added to Metrolink's 91 Line in July.
- OCTA successfully hosted special transportation to events such as the Los Angeles Kings hockey game held at Dodger Stadium, a Lunar New Year celebration in Chinatown and a Swallows Day Celebration in San Juan Capistrano. The goal of hosting these events was to attract new riders to Metrolink.
- In March, OCTA completed the installation of safety enhancements and an Audible Warning System (AWS) along the San Clemente Beach Trail at seven pedestrian crossings. OCTA and the city are continuing efforts to work with state and federal agencies to allow for the use of the AWS in lieu of the routine sounding of train-mounted horns.

- In September, OCTA joined with Metrolink and Operation Lifesaver Inc. to promote rail safety with the "See Tracks? Think Train." campaign.
- In October, Placentia got one step closer to being the home of Orange County's 12<sup>th</sup> Metrolink stop when it cleared the site for a new station.
- The Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC), a multimodal regional transportation hub, opened in December.

### Support development of delivery policies for fixed guideways

- The Santa Ana/Garden Grove Streetcar Project will connect the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center with downtown Santa Ana, the Santa Ana Civic Center, and Westminster Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove. Milestones were completed by the city of Santa Ana and include the alternatives analysis report, draft environmental assessment/environmental impact reports and the selection of the locally preferred alternative by the Santa Ana City Council. OCTA will serve as lead agency for project development, implementation, operations and maintenance.
- Measure M funds approved for operations and maintenance of future fixed-guideway projects.

### Initiate a Harbor Boulevard Transit Corridor Study

- OCTA has initiated the Central Harbor Boulevard Transit Corridor Study to assess the possibility of connecting two proposed fixed-guideway projects along Orange County's busiest north/south transit corridor.
- Corridor and mobility issues have been defined and project goals, objectives, and performance measures have been developed. A traffic impact analysis and study is currently underway.

### Serve as managing agency for the LOSSAN joint powers authority

- OCTA serves as the managing agency for the 351-mile Los Angeles—San Diego—San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor which runs through six counties. OCTA, on behalf of LOSSAN, is currently working to negotiate an Interagency Transfer Agreement with the State of California with the goal of transferring management responsibility of the Pacific Surfliner rail service to the LOSSAN Joint Powers Authority (JPA) by July 2015.
- The purpose of this effort is to provide local control of Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner service to improve the passenger experience and provide better integration with other local transit services.





## ADVANCE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS



### Fund projects on the regional bike network

Orange County projects received a total of \$18.7 million from the first round of the state's new Active Transportation Program funded by Cap & Trade funds. These grants, when combined with local agency matching funds and OCTA's commitment of federal funds, provided more than \$21 million for 28 projects throughout the county.

The combined state and OCTA funds will support projects that will improve bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout Orange County including grants to further the completion of the Orange County (OC) Bike Loop, develop bicycle and pedestrian safety education and outreach programs, implement Safe Route to Schools programs and develop future active transportation plans.

### Continue regional bikeways planning

- To date, 30 regional bikeway corridors comprised of more than 350 miles have been identified; half have already been implemented locally.
- OCTA facilitated collaboration with south Orange County jurisdictions to identify nine regional bikeway corridors and encourage stakeholders to help develop a more bike-friendly community at two roundtable discussions.

- OCTA selected a consultant to develop a bikeways strategy and to prepare a feasibility study for the OC Foothills area. Bikeways strategies for all of Orange County are scheduled for completion in 2015.

### Raise awareness of the Orange County Bike Loop

- A dedicated webpage was created to increase awareness and show progress in building the 66-mile OC Bike Loop, which is 70 percent complete. Approximately 650,000 people live within one mile of the OC Loop, which provides commuters and residents with connections to bus stops, Metrolink stations and major employment centers.
- In September, OCTA and other regional transportation officials opened a two-mile segment of the OC Loop along the Coyote Creek trail that runs near Beach Boulevard between Buena Park and La Mirada.



### Promote active transportation

- In April, OCTA collaborated with local officials, law enforcement and bicycle advocates on an Orange County Bike Safety Workshop with approximately 60 participants. The goal was to raise awareness and discuss actions to improve bicycle safety.
- OCTA unveiled “Be Bike Smart”—an active transportation safety campaign to educate bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians.
- Be Bike Smart has garnered more than 12,000 views and received nearly 1,300 bike safety pledges through a dedicated website, social media, local television and radio public service announcements, bus ads, videos and regional meetings.
- OCTA created a “Three Feet for Safety” video public service announcement supporting California’s new motor vehicle law/code that received more than 311,000 views on Facebook and YouTube.





## MAXIMIZE FUNDING AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Support building stable, long-term funding

- In March, the California Transportation Commission approved the 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This action provided \$243 million in state and federal funding commitments toward freeway, local interchange, and rail projects in Orange County and supports OCTA's initiative to invest more than \$5 billion in transportation improvements to reduce congestion, improve mobility and enhance safety throughout Orange County.
- OCTA submitted applications for \$240 million in grants from federal, state and local sources and was successful in receiving nearly \$198 million.
- OCTA created a path forward to allow continued receipt of federal transit funding grants previously held up due to challenges to state pension reforms based on federal 13(c) collective bargaining protections.

### Collaborate with regional partners on transportation initiatives

- In 2014, Assembly Bill 401 became effective helping OCTA secure legislative authority for the use of the design-build project delivery method for projects on the state highway system until 2024, including for the Interstate 405 Improvement Project.

- In 2014, Assembly Bill 417 became effective exempting bikeway plans in urban areas from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), allowing expedited delivery of those projects.
- OCTA worked with Metrolink and other regional partners to negotiate a change in the transit industry position to advocate for implementation of Positive Train Control.
- OCTA coordinated a regional and state response to burdensome federal Buy America requirements, resulting in temporary regulatory relief.
- OCTA advocated for a reasonable, flexible, economically viable and balanced approach as regulations and follow-up legislation relating to Assembly Bill 32-climate protection and greenhouse gas reduction mandates-were considered.

### Adopt a balanced budget

In June, OCTA approved a balanced \$1.1 billion budget for FY 2014-2015 which includes major initiatives to sustain bus and rail service levels, closes out Measure M1, continues Measure M2 improvements, and operates the 91 Express Lanes.

## Rating upgrade for the 91 Express Lanes

- Standard & Poor's (S&P) upgraded the rating on OCTA's 91 Express Lanes Series 2013 Refunding Bonds debt from A to AA- with a stable outlook for the future. The AA- rating is an unusual two-notch rating increase. S&P cited the 91 Express Lanes solid financial metrics, the completion of the new general purpose lanes on the SR-91 and an effective toll policy as some the reasons for the rating upgrade.





## DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

### **Develop the Long-Range Transportation Plan**

OCTA submitted the 2014 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a 20-year vision for Orange County's transportation network, to the Southern California Association of Governments for inclusion in the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan.

- More than 1,000 members of the public, elected officials, local agencies, advocacy groups, and industry professionals were included in the development of the LRTP.
- The LRTP includes a four-year action plan to address issues highlighted during the planning process and lead to projects and strategies for consideration in future Long-Range Transportation Plan updates.

### **Develop a balanced comprehensive business plan**

- OCTA's Comprehensive Business Plan is a strategic business tool utilized to ensure the financial viability of OCTA programs and services, and is designed to assist OCTA in implementing its strategic goals and objectives within the framework of sound business practices. The fiscal year 2014-15 Comprehensive Business Plan demonstrates the financial feasibility of all programs and services over a 20-year horizon.

- OCTA completed a short-range transit plan which outlines how bus service could be enhanced in a sustainable manner if additional revenue becomes available.

### **Adopt a funding strategy for the M2 Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program**

The Board adopted a funding strategy for the Measure M Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program. OCTA is acquiring a network of undeveloped properties rich with natural habitat and wildlife corridors.

- The purchase of 204 undeveloped acres for \$2.5 million in January brought OCTA's total to 1,150 acres of open space property that will be permanently designated as wilderness preserves.
- OCTA approved a multi-year target of \$34.5 million to provide funds to pay for the long-term management and maintenance costs of land preserves acquired for environmental mitigation.



### Other environmental accomplishments

- In November, OCTA released a draft conservation plan for public review that provides comprehensive mitigation to offset biological impacts from the Measure M freeway improvement projects.
- OCTA hosted a series of informative tours of the protected wilderness preserves to promote environmental sustainability.

### Award-winning environmental efforts

- In September, the California Stormwater Quality Association honored OCTA for improving water quality from transportation-related pollutants in Orange County's waterways.





## CULTIVATE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE



### Adopt a five-year Strategic Plan

- The Board approved the 2014 – 2019 OCTA Strategic Plan, which takes a comprehensive, forward-looking approach to addressing Orange County's transportation needs during the next five years. The plan addresses key external and internal driving forces that are influencing, or have the potential to affect OCTA's vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives.

### Enhance workforce development

- In 2014, OCTA continued the Leadership Development Academy (LDA) with a second class of 13 participants. The goal of the LDA is to grow and support the next generation of OCTA's leaders.
- In early 2014, the American Heart Association recognized OCTA as the Gold Fit-Friendly Worksite. For the sixth consecutive year, OCTA's Wellness programs received the award for promoting progressive healthy practices and for creating a culture of wellness in the workplace.

### Pension Reform

- OCTA successfully completed the first year of a four-year pension reform plan to ensure that all employees pay the employee share of pension costs that will ultimately save OCTA \$85 million over a twenty-year period.

### Complete negotiations with collective bargaining units

- In April, the Board approved new three-year agreements with all three of its collective bargaining units – the Transportation Communications International Union which represents our parts clerks, stock clerks and facilities technicians, and Teamsters Local 952 which represents both our coach operator union employees and our maintenance union employees. All three agreements are fiscally sustainable and consistent with long-range assumptions made in the Comprehensive Business Plan.

### Update OCTA headquarters

- Following an extensive review of relocation and purchase opportunities, the Board determined that it would be both financially and operationally beneficial to execute a new lease for the current headquarters location. By negotiating a new 15-year lease, OCTA expects to save an estimated \$39.4 million over the next 30 years when compared to the previous lease terms.

### Host a successful 2014 OCTA Business Expo

- In October, more than 500 business leaders, small business owners and transportation officials participated in OCTA's Business Expo at the Disneyland Hotel. The Business Expo connected leading representatives from both the public and private sectors to learn what it takes to do business with OCTA and other public agencies.

### Stuff-A-Bus a record-breaking success

- In December, a record-breaking 27 buses were filled with new toys at the Honda Center the Friday before Christmas as part of the 22nd

Annual Stuff-A-Bus event. Donations poured in from businesses and residents to make this the most successful year yet. The event supports the Spark of Love toy drive.

### Annual Rodeo shows off employee skills

- In November, at OCTA's 39th annual Bus and Maintenance Rodeo Competition at the Santa Ana bus base, Board members, dignitaries and employees battled it out for recognition as they showed off their prowess in driving and maintaining OCTA buses.

### Veterans honored for service

- At the fifth annual Veterans Day Appreciation Event in November, OCTA recognized the service of employees who are military veterans. OCTA employs 115 veterans from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, representing nearly 10 percent of the workforce. The veterans are employed in a range of positions, including OCTA coach operators, maintenance workers, and administrative employees.





OCTA 2014 Board of Directors



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