

Meeting of Jan. 25, 2016

Board recognizes Employees of the Month for January

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

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Kim Luckey, coach operator
- Bryan Robinson from maintenance
- Chris Boucly from administration

OCTA board strategic initiatives announced

OCTA Chair Lori Donchak unveiled the OCTA board's five strategic initiatives for 2016.

The strategic initiatives include:

- Delivering capital projects, including the achievement of the Interstate 405 Improvement Project milestones
- Developing a regional transit master plan, achieving OC Streetcar project milestones and awarding funding for community-based transit and circulators
- Optimizing real-time bus arrival information and implementing mobile ticketing
- Collaborating with other transportation agencies
- Advocating for ample and stable transportation funding and using existing resources wisely

Board receives OC Bus 360° update

The OCTA board received an update on OC Bus 360°, a strategy focused on increasing bus ridership through initiatives including improved bus travel times and frequencies, the introduction of mobile ticketing and the rebranding of buses.

Specific updates include:

- After extensive public outreach, including a public hearing during the meeting, final route recommendations for the Proposed 2016 Bus Service Plan will be brought to the board in February for consideration and action. The proposed plan is expected to grow ridership by 1.6 million boardings over the next three years by reallocating resources from lower-performing routes to areas with higher demand.
- Mobile ticketing, which will allow bus customers to purchase fares and obtain trip information on their smartphones, will launch for express and college passes in the spring. Mobile ticketing is expected to roll out system wide in late 2016.

- Taking public input into consideration, the board previously approved a new color scheme and the name “OC Bus” for the fixed-route bus system. The rebranding coincides with the purchase of replacement vehicles, which will begin to arrive in the spring.

Harbor Corridor Study nears end of phase one

OCTA staff reported that it’s finishing up the first phase of the Central Harbor Boulevard Transit Corridor Study, which will analyze and develop options to improve transit service on Harbor Boulevard between the Fullerton Transportation Center and Westminster Boulevard.

Harbor Boulevard is the county’s busiest north to south transit corridor. The 8-mile project study area, which includes the western terminus of the future OC Streetcar, accounts for 19 percent of the daily OCTA boardings.

The study involves working with the corridor cities to assess existing and future mobility needs along the study area, develop improvement strategies and evaluate potential connections to planned and proposed projects.

A stakeholder workshop will be held Jan. 28 and two public workshops will be held in February to share preliminary work and receive feedback. During the next phase, alternatives will be developed with a second round of outreach held during the summer to solicit input on them.