

Meeting of Feb. 8, 2021

2020 Employees of the Year Honored

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the year for 2020. The honors went to:

- Ricardo Serna, coach operator
- Travis Corey, maintenance
- Barry Reynolds, administration

Ricardo Serna has worked at OCTA for 27 years, providing customers with safe, courteous and reliable OC Bus service. He maintains an excellent attendance and customer service record and achieved 25 years of safe driving in 2019. Ricardo's focus on helping OCTA's elderly and disabled customers has been particularly inspiring.

Travis Corey joined OCTA as a coach operator in 2013, serving in that role until he joined the maintenance team as an apprentice mechanic in 2017. In 2019, he became a journeyman mechanic. Travis brings a great attitude to work and is a vital team member on the third shift at the Garden Grove bus base. He has continuously pursued ways to improve his maintenance skills and contribute to the productivity and success of the maintenance team.

Barry Reynolds has worked for OCTA since 1988. He is currently an Information Systems Department Manager overseeing the agency's technology infrastructure and environment. Barry and his teams have ensured high reliability on all the agency's communications systems and have equipped OCTA's administrative employees to work remotely and collaboratively this past year.

\$2.8 Million Available to Improve County's Water Quality

The OCTA board has made available \$2.8 million for projects that will reduce the impacts of transportation-related street runoff and improve water quality for Orange County waterways.

The \$2.8 million comes from Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvement, also known as OC Go.

The measure includes funding for an Environmental Cleanup Program that awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the county that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation by removing litter and debris from roads before it reaches the ocean and other waterways.

Applications will be accepted until May 6, and the OCTA Board is expected to award funding by late summer of this year.

OCTA Developing Strategies to Improve Travel in South Orange County

The OCTA board reviewed the results of the first phase of an ongoing study to address south Orange County's transportation needs as the area continues to grow and as travel patterns and needs evolve.

The study, called the South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study, is looking at a wide range of transportation needs and solutions over the next 25 years, including improvements to streets, bus and other transit options, highways and bikeways.

During the first phase of the study conducted last year, OCTA engaged with residents and stakeholders and completed a survey in multiple languages. Among the survey findings, the respondents said that they would like to see a reduction in traffic congestion, increased frequency and accessibility of multimodal transportation, and increased safety and efficiency for all modes of travel.

The South County study continues into the second of three phases, scheduled through the end of 2021. Residents, business owners and other key stakeholders will be asked to participate throughout in order to develop community consensus on transportation solutions that should move forward for further development.