



March 13, 2025

To: Transit Committee
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: May 2025 OC Bus Service Change

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell E. Johnson", is written over the "From:" line of the header.

Overview

The proposed May 2025 OC Bus service change implements changes consistent with the Making Better Connections final service plan. These changes will provide new connections, reduce wait times, and improve overall service quality and reliability. Minor adjustments to bus schedules in response to customer comments and coach operator feedback are also included.

Recommendation

Receive and file as an information item.

Background

In October 2022, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) completed a comprehensive study of the bus transit system, known as the Making Better Connections (MBC) Study. The MBC Study assessed emerging travel trends and recommended optimizing the transit network to better serve Orange County residents, workers, and visitors. The Board of Directors approved the final service plan that emerged from the MBC Study on October 24, 2022. The MBC Study strives to improve bus service on high-ridership routes, reduce wait times, and simplify route structures. OCTA continues to implement these recommendations steadily through the service change process.

OCTA implements regular schedule and route revisions to selected OC Bus routes four times a year (February, May, August, and November). The proposed bus service changes discussed herein are scheduled for implementation on May 11, 2025.

Discussion

OCTA regularly monitors OC Bus performance and makes adjustments as needed to improve the service. These adjustments consider changes in traffic conditions, school schedules or land-use changes, customer comments, current ridership demand, and coach operator feedback. The changes are intended to improve the performance of individual bus routes and transit service overall.

The proposed changes for May 2025 will primarily focus on improvements to service quality and reliability. These changes focus on the following enhancements/modifications:

- Alignment change on OC Bus Rapid Route 553 which would extend the route from its current northern terminal at the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center to the Disneyland Resort via Katella Avenue and Harbor Boulevard.
- Additional bus trips on Route 473 and OC Bus Rapid Route 553.
- Frequency improvement on Route 71 on Sunday.
- Schedule adjustments to improve on-time performance on routes 26, 30, 33, 38, 43, 54, 56, 57, 71, 72, 86, 143, 150-151, 178, 473, 480, 529, 543, and 553.
- Seasonal transition to summer schedules on routes 1, 29, 47, and 89 due to an increase in beach traffic.
- Minor schedule adjustments to address customer feedback on routes 35, 60, and 129.

The proposed May 2025 changes are detailed in Attachment A and represented in Attachment B and Attachment C.

The proposed changes would result in an increase in bus service levels of approximately 11,000 revenue vehicle hours annually. There will be a temporary increase of an additional 2,600 revenue vehicles hours on routes 1, 29, 47, and 89 during the summer period. System-wide service levels would increase to about 1.56 million annual revenue vehicle hours.

Summary

The proposed May 2025 OC Bus service change will result in several adjustments to OC Bus service. These adjustments include improvements to service quality and reliability, minor frequency changes, a route alignment change, and the transition to the seasonal summer schedules on select routes. Customers will be notified of the changes three weeks prior to implementation.

Attachments

- A. May 2025 OC Bus Service Change: Recommendations by Route
- B. May 2025 OC Bus Service Change: Bus Route Recommendations Map
- C. May 2025 OC Bus Service Change: OC Bus Rapid 553 Planned Extension Map

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