



# **MINUTES**

## ***Executive Committee Meeting***

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### **Committee Members Present**

Andrew Do, Chairman  
Mark A. Murphy, Vice Chairman  
Lisa Bartlett  
Michael Hennessey  
Steve Jones  
Tim Shaw

### **Staff Present**

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
Jennifer L. Bergener, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Allison Cheshire, Clerk of the Board Specialist, Senior  
Sahara Meisenheimer, Clerk of the Board Specialist  
James Donich, General Counsel  
OCTA Staff Members

### **Committee Members Absent**

None

### **Call to Order**

The October 4, 2021, Executive Committee (Committee) regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Do at 9:00 a.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Director Shaw led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Do thanked Vice Chairman Murphy for standing in for him over the last few weeks while dealing with some health issues.

#### **1. Public Comments**

Public Comments were received under Item 4.

### **Special Calendar**

There were no Special Calendar matters.

### **Consent Calendar (Item 2)**

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Director Hennessey, seconded by Director Bartlett, and declared passed by those present, to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of September 2, 2021.

## **Regular Calendar**

### **3. Measure M2 Next 10 Delivery Plan: Market Conditions Key Indicators Analysis Forecast**

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), provided opening comments and introduced Dr. Wallace Walrod, Ph.D., Chief Economic Advisor of the Orange County Business Council, who provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item.

A discussion ensued regarding:

- Solutions for the backup of goods in the ports and the impact on local businesses.
- Over the last 18 months, most companies have had to ramp downward and work with changing mandates and labor challenges.
- Disruptions to business and the supply chain are causing things to move slowly.
- Challenges to getting people back to work and getting the labor force moving forward may take six-month plus.
- The significant increase in the cost of goods due to the backlog of goods in the ports.
- Companies are reassessing their supply chain, building supply chains that are not as long and less complicated, and moving to manufacture back to the United States.
- Inflationary cost pressures on [usdebtclock.org](https://usdebtclock.org).
- Wage increases at a higher level compared to 2018 as materials costs drive the wage increase five to six percent over the next two to three years.
- Increase in manufacturing at the national level but not necessarily in California due to the high cost of living and state regulations.

Mr. Johnson, CEO said OCTA would continue to focus on delivering the complete program in the most cost-effective way possible by looking at acceleration and how projects will lay out by the end of the calendar year.

A motion was made by Chairman Do, seconded by Vice Chairman Murphy, and declared passed by those present, to continue to monitor market conditions key indicators and provide updates to the Board of Directors as appropriate.

#### **4. South Orange County Transportation Projects Update and Cooperative Agreement**

Kia Mortazavi, Executive Director of Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item.

Director Bartlett wanted to recognize the amount of collaboration, cooperation, and time dedicated to getting this cooperative agreement to the Executive Committee for approval. Since taking office of the fifth district, one of her main focuses has been improving regional mobility, reducing south county traffic, and supporting transportation solutions within the fifth district since there is only one freeway, Interstate 405 (I-405), connects to Interstate 5 (I-5).

Director Bartlett also stated the cooperative agreement secures the process relative to the three projects and commits San Clemente to keep the Los Patrones Parkway (LPP) extension in the general plan. It is essential for this project as part of the three-prong project for the south county.

Chairman Do complimented Director Bartlett on her focus on regional mobility.

Director Shaw inquired about the extension of the High Occupancy Vehicle lane on the I-5

Mr. Mortazavi responded that OCTA staff is working with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). He stated SANDAG recently released its regional transportation plan, and the original idea was to have managed lanes up to the county line. The current goal is to convert a general-purpose lane to a priced managed route.

Public comment was heard from Amanda Quintanilla, stating a false narrative was presented by some of the city council from San Clemente. She stated that residents do not want the LPP extension to go through the town. She said that San Clemente residents had opposed LPP from the beginning when it was entered as a receive and file item in January 2019 by Supervisor Bartlett. In addition, she noted that San Clemente residents spoke in opposition at the March 12, 2020, Transportation Corridor Agencies Board of Directors meeting.

Ms. Quintanilla stated the cooperative agreement was discussed behind closed doors without public input. Furthermore, this cooperative agreement infringes upon the rights of San Clemente residents.

Allison Cheshire, Board Specialist, Senior, reported that a public comment was received via email from Mike Balsamo, Senior Vice President, Government Relations of the City of Rancho Mission Viejo. The comment was emailed to the Committee members on Friday, October 1, 2021, and would be retained as part of the records of today's meeting.

Director Bartlett stated she received a copy of the letter from Mr. Balsamo, and he is in favor of the approach that OCTA is taking relative to the cooperative agreement.

A motion was made by Director Bartlett, seconded by Chairman Do, and declared passed by those present, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to execute a cooperative agreement with the County of Orange and the City of San Clemente to work cooperatively on south Orange County regional transportation solutions.

## **Discussion Items**

### **5. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Darrell E. Johnson, CEO, reported on the following:

#### **Federal Update**

- On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the President signed a short-term continuing resolution to fund government operations through December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Congress approved a 9-week stopgap funding bill to continue negotiations on a year-long appropriations package to fund most government programs.
- On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the House passed a 30-day extension of Highway Trust Fund authority that had expired October 1, which the Senate then approved, and the President signed on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- This action restored funding for the Department of Transportation affected programs and employees who had been furloughed since Friday to return to work today.
- Both temporary extensions were approved after negotiations stalled surrounding the broader Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the infrastructure bill.
- Staff will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates to the Board as they become available.
- Staff will also present an in-depth analysis to the Legislative and Communications Committee on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.



**Metrolink Update**

- Starting today, both Metrolink and Pacific Surfliner have resumed service in south county.
- The work went well, with approximately 12,000 tons of riprap put in place over the last few weeks.
- All riders were notified about service resuming and potential delays this week due to trains traveling at reduced speeds to ensure safety and monitor the tracks.

**Welcome Pass Update**

- The discounted Welcome Pass launched about a month and a half ago to encourage riders to return to public transportation.
- More than a quarter-million boardings have been recorded with these passes, which provide a 40 percent savings off the regular bus fare.
- The Welcome Pass will continue to be on sale through November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Committee Members' Reports**

Director Bartlett expressed thanks to OCTA for finding and implementing a quick solution to the track issues in San Clemente.

**7. Closed Session**

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 1, 2021** at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, Conference Room 07, 550 South Main Street, Orange, California.

ATTEST

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Mark Murphy  
Vice Chairman

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Allison Cheshire  
Clerk of the Board Specialist, Senior