

**Orange County Transportation Authority  
Low Carbon Transit Operations Program  
Program of Projects Description**

**College Pass and Travel Training Program**

OC Bus 360°, the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) comprehensive plan to improve bus service from all angles, identifies college students as a key audience for bus service growth. According to OCTA's bus customer satisfaction surveys, work and school are the top trip purposes for bus riders.

OCTA began developing programs for a student-based initiative that would increase ridership by encouraging trial usage among new riders and more frequent ridership among existing riders. The program criteria included selecting a location within a high transit-demand area and identifying funding sources, including college assessed cost-sharing transportation fees, to support the program.

Transit agencies throughout the country have successfully implemented similar student pass programs. The Riverside Transit Agency implemented a two-year pilot pass program that provides free rides to students in the Riverside Community College District. After the free-ride period ended, students voted to pay a fee to continue the program for an additional five years.

Beginning in fall 2017, OCTA provided Santa Ana College (SAC) students, enrolled full- and part-time with a one-year free pass program funded through LCTOP. In May 2017, SAC students voted to pass a per-semester student transportation fee to fund the program from fall 2018 through summer 2020. Using a cost-sharing approach, OCTA established the per-semester student fee at \$6.75 for each full-time student and \$5.75 for each part-time student.

OCTA is currently working with Fullerton College and Golden West College to offer a similar opportunity. The student enrollment fee may vary as it is based on the specific transit opportunities and demographics of each College. As part of this College Pass Program, OCTA will also make travel training available to new riders.

**Bravo! Main Street – Capital and Operating**

Bravo! Main Street is identified as one of the 11 corridors in the OC Transit Vision. This corridor runs parallel to State Route 55 and traverses through several disadvantaged communities. The bus service is on Main Street and starts at the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (which provides connections to Metrolink and Amtrak services to Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Oceanside, and San Diego), and the route ends at South Coast Metro, a key employment center of the County.

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OCTA has been awarded a SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes 2017) Solutions for Congested Corridors grant of \$4,330,400 towards the purchase of five zero emission buses for Bravo! Main Street Rapid Bus Service. The total cost for these buses is estimated to be \$5,413,400.

Additionally, utility and depot upgrades are necessary to charge the electric buses and, according to Southern California Edison (SCE), the current available energy required at the Garden Grove Base to support this project is currently available through SCE's transformer installed at that location; however, electrical cabling, trenching, dedicated charging stations, smart energy management controllers, and other devices similar in nature are still required.

And, as mandated by existing zero-emission regulations for transit fleets in California, these upgrades can also be considered as the engineering and technical blueprint for potential expansion of zero emission bus technologies and this or other OCTA locations. Purchasing these five buses along with the required infrastructure will allow OCTA to test them along with the hydrogen buses to test how both technologies work within the OC Bus service.

LCTOP funds will also be set aside to contribute to the start-up operating costs for the Bravo! Main Street Rapid Bus Service.