

**Orange County Transportation Authority
Low Carbon Transit Operations Program – Project Descriptions**

Youth Ride Free Program

OC Bus 360°, Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) comprehensive plan to improve bus service from all angles, identifies youth as a key audience for bus service growth. Beginning in September 2021, OCTA began offering subsidized youth passes to youth aged 18 and under. The free transit service allows this transit dependent group to reach destinations such as home, schools, parks, and other recreation centers at no cost. From October 2019 to October 2023, countywide youth boardings doubled with an increase of 165,376.

OC Bus Rapid 553 or Bravo! 553 Service Operating Subsidy

OC Bus Rapid 553 service operates on weekdays approximately between 5:50 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. along Main Street serving 15 stops from Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center to MacArthur Boulevard and provides service to the cities of Anaheim, Orange, and Santa Ana. The service is limited-stop, which speeds up travel times, and operates with a combination of near-zero and zero-emission vehicles. The OC Bus Rapid 553 serves communities that are identified as disadvantaged communities under SB 535 (Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012) and AB 1550 (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016).

College Pass Program for Orange Coast College

This program allows college students at Orange Coast College to ride free in the first year of the program (fiscal year 2021-22) and for a reduced fare in future years. The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) was designed to support the operating costs for year one as well as marketing and outreach. After the first year of the College Pass Program, the Orange Coast College began charging every student a fee assessment that continues to support the operating costs. The need for LCTOP to support ongoing operating costs was significantly less than projected and the program will continue to be supported by fee assessments in the future.

Welcome Back Fare Reduction Program for OC Bus Riders

As part of a coordinated customer comeback program following the coronavirus ridership reductions, the fare discount promotion was designed to encourage existing and lapsed customers to return, along with a campaign highlighting the benefits and safety of public transit. OCTA proposed to provide the Fare Reduction Program for a promotional period of up to 12 months, subject to rider demand and funding availability. Note that the promotional period was planned to be divided into two-to-three-month phases, not a continuous period, but fewer phases were implemented than initially planned, so a significant amount of LCTOP was not needed.