



May 11, 2026

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

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

Subject: 2026 Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer Initiatives and Action Plan – First Quarter Progress Report

On January 26, 2026, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved the 2026 Board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Initiatives (Attachment A) and Action Plan (Attachment B). The 2026 Action Plan consists of three Board initiatives and nine CEO initiatives, monitored through 104 milestones throughout the calendar year. Reports detailing the progress on these milestones are presented on a quarterly basis for Board review. This report provides a summary of progress on first quarter (Q1) milestones from January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026. At the conclusion of Q1, 15 of the 104 milestones have been completed. Highlights of these accomplishments are outlined below.

Q1 Progress Report

During Q1 of the calendar year 2026, ten milestones were scheduled for completion. At the end of Q1, nine of those ten milestones have been completed, while an additional six milestones have been completed ahead of schedule. Some of the key highlights achieved in Q1 include:

- In partnership with the California Department of Transportation, construction began on the Interstate 5 (I-5) Improvement Project, which will improve traffic flow and enhance safety along a nearly nine-mile stretch of I-5 between Interstate 405 and State Route 55 through the cities of Irvine and Tustin.
- Advanced efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of Metrolink service, including establishing a target funding level for fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 to maintain and support continued regional rail operations through the life of Measure M2. OCTA will remain actively engaged in its coordination with Metrolink and partner agencies to address the rail operator's ongoing funding, ridership, and revenue challenges.

- With Board approval, submitted the 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) project list and financial plan for fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 through FY 2031-32 to the Southern California Association of Governments, prioritizing approximately \$2.098 billion in transportation investments across Orange County. As the agency responsible for preparing the County's FTIP, OCTA ensures that regionally significant projects are aligned with the Regional Transportation Plan and eligible for state and federal funding if approved.
- Initially forecasted to be achieved in the second quarter (Q2), completed transition of the College Pass Program to the Wave payment platform earlier than anticipated, further advancing OCTA's modernization of its fare collection system. The March 2026 rollout introduced a streamlined, digital solution that replaces the older mobile application and paper passes, which will help improve boarding efficiency and enhance the rider experience for Orange County community college students participating in the program.
- Made significant progress on the 2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) with the development of the draft 2050 Preferred Plan framework, which outlines a recommended set of projects, programs, and strategies intended to advance the LRTP goals. Although included in the Action Plan as a Q2 milestone, an update to the Board on the LRTP was presented in advance of the original schedule on March 9, 2026. Consistent with the Board's direction at that meeting, OCTA will use the 2050 Preferred Plan to prepare the draft 2026 LRTP.

While 15 total milestones were accomplished during the quarter, some of which are noted above, the delivery timeframe for one milestone originally scheduled for completion in Q1 was extended. More time is needed to allow for stakeholder review of the draft Letter of Agreement (LOA) for the Placentia Metrolink Station concept with the City of Placentia, BNSF Railway, and Metrolink. While coordination amongst the various parties toward an agreement has been ongoing, the LOA is now projected to be finalized in Q2. Additional timetable adjustments were made to the anticipated completion of ten milestones in subsequent quarters, which are still planned to be completed in 2026. The opening of the OC Streetcar to the public for revenue service has been revised to early 2027. This carryover is a result of ongoing mediation of contractor disputes and related litigation. For more details on the schedule revisions, please refer to Attachment B.

The Q1 progress report is complete and included for your review. I am encouraged by OCTA's progress to date and am confident in our ability to build on this momentum as we advance the 2026 Board and CEO Initiatives. Looking ahead, we remain committed to meeting the needs of the public, our customers, and our employees to keep Orange County moving. Please contact me at (714) 560-5343 with any questions or suggestions.

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Attachments