



**March 2, 2026**

**To:** Executive Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup 2026 and Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games Transit Planning Update

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

**Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is advancing planning efforts for the Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup 2026 and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. These global events represent significant regional mobility challenges and opportunities. The planning focus is to deliver seamless, high-quality transit service for spectators and workforce while minimizing impacts to existing Orange County Transportation Authority riders. This report provides an update on ongoing planning efforts to date.

**Recommendation**

Receive and file as an information item.

**Background**

On October 13, 2025, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) directed staff to continue to plan and implement World Cup 2026 (WC26) service, seek funding opportunities for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics (LA28) transit service, and authorized the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a funding agreement between OCTA and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) to obtain reimbursement for WC26 transit service expenses.

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association WC26 will include eight matches at SoFi Stadium (SoFi) between June 12 and July 10, 2026. LA Metro estimates that over 24,000 spectators per day are expected to arrive via transit or park-and-ride shuttle service. OCTA and LA Metro staff have progressed

service planning activities, including park-and-ride bus service from the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) and potentially from an additional terminus located in west Orange County. Options for the additional service include the Laguna Hills Transportation Center, Goldenwest Transportation Center, and Newport Transportation Center.

The LA28 and Paralympic Games (Games) will include more than 800 events at over 80 venues across the region spanning a six-week period, with an anticipated 12 to 15 million ticketed spectators. Two confirmed venues in or adjacent to Orange County are the Honda Center (volleyball) and Trestles Beach (surfing). OCTA is expected to play a key role in transporting spectators via OC Bus, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), and Amtrak to these venues.

### ***Discussion***

OCTA and LA Metro have coordinated planning over the past 22 months to prepare for both the WC26 and Games. This has included exploring Games Enhanced Transit Service, mobility hubs, Games route network, first/last mile, transportation demand management, and park-and-ride as options to complete the Games transportation component.

#### **World Cup 2026**

On October 13, 2025, the Board directed staff to continue to plan and implement WC26 service. Since that time, OCTA staff worked with LA Metro, the City of Anaheim, and ARTIC management staff to refine service and operational planning for bus service between ARTIC and SoFi. Additionally, consistent with direction received from the Board, OCTA staff is evaluating an additional park-and-ride bus service concept originating from a west county transportation center to SoFi to provide greater access across Orange County. OCTA staff is working with LA Metro to determine if there is sufficient capacity at SoFi to accommodate this additional route.

Match times and information about which teams will be playing in the initial matches were made available in December 2025. Of the eight total matches planned at SoFi, five matches will occur at 12:00 p.m., two matches will occur at 6:00 p.m., and one match will occur at 7:00 p.m. Two of the initial matches will feature Team USA, including the first match on Friday, June 12, 2026. The WC26's random selection draw for match tickets was active between mid-December 2025 and mid-January 2026. Prospective attendees are expected to be notified of the results of the draw in February 2026. The next

phase of ticket sales is expected in April 2026. LA Metro has requested ticket sales data from WC26 to better understand the general market and demand for travel to SoFi. The ticket sales data would help to further define the need for bus service from ARTIC and west Orange County. As of the writing of this staff report, that information has not been made available to LA Metro or OCTA. LA Metro is also planning to utilize a transit reservation system to determine ridership demand for transit agencies providing WC26 service.

In October 2025, LA Metro provided the various municipal operators with a draft term sheet for review to establish roles and responsibilities for the preparation, operation, and after-action debriefs for WC26 services. OCTA staff reviewed the term sheet and provided feedback to LA Metro.

Based on the draft term sheet and subsequent discussions with LA Metro staff, high-level cost estimates have been refined for OCTA to operate bus services originating from ARTIC and a transit center in west Orange County to SoFi with the following key assumptions:

- 18 vehicles (12 for ARTIC and six for west Orange County transit center, pending SoFi availability)
- 900 daily passengers (50 passengers per vehicle)
- Eight matches over eight days of operations
- Eight hours of service per match day (includes three hours prior to match start, two hours for gameplay, and three hours for return operations)
- Operational support staff consisting of three senior supervisors, three field specialists, two road call mechanics, and one radio specialist per day
- Cost per hour of operation: \$204.04

Based on these assumptions, the total cost estimate (including contingency) remains below the Board-authorized budget of \$300,000 for the WC26 bus service. OCTA and LA Metro have engaged in discussions regarding a finalized term sheet, contract, and reimbursement by LA Metro for OCTA providing transportation for WC26 matches. OCTA staff expects that delivering this service is feasible given its current staffing and vehicle resources, and this is not anticipated to negatively impact existing OC Bus service.

## Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games

OCTA staff has continued to advance venue-specific planning for the Games. OCTA's official membership in the Games Mobility Executive (GME), established to support mobility and transportation planning for the Games, remains pending. The GME is comprised of core agencies (LA28, the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, LA Metro, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, California Department of Transportation, SCRRA, and Southern California Association of Governments) responsible for planning and implementation of transportation services for the Games. While progress has been made on establishing official security perimeters for the Games venue sites, uncertainties remain regarding final bus access, pedestrian pathways, and vehicle staging areas.

OCTA staff has developed high-level cost estimates, based on the most current information available, to provide services for the Games. A total estimate of approximately \$74.5 million in state and/or federal investment is requested to ensure Orange County's public transit system is ready to support the Games while keeping everyday travel reliable for residents and workers. These estimates informed discussions with state and federal leaders in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. in January 2026. Staff will continue to refine the cost estimate as more information becomes available for the Games.

During the fourth quarter of 2025, OCTA staff participated in several key activities, including meetings regarding the Trestles Beach venue, the Games Summit hosted by the LA28 Organizing Committee, a Honda Center subcommittee meeting, and discussions regarding the Athlete Satellite Village at the University of California, Irvine.

On January 14, 2026, OCTA released a request for proposals for consultant support to complete a Games transportation service plan and capital needs assessment. Key objectives of the scope of work include service integration with other major regional public transit providers, route optimization to accommodate increased demand, capital investment planning for transit centers, park-and-rides, and other critical infrastructure, and broad stakeholder engagement. Staff anticipates that the proposed award will be presented to the Board in April 2026.

***Summary***

OCTA's continued collaboration with LA Metro, Games, and other key stakeholders is critical to ensuring successful planning and delivery of transit services for the WC26 and the Games. OCTA staff is working with LA Metro to potentially provide an additional service offering to SoFi for the WC26 matches from the coastal parts of Orange County. Additional information related to the Games including updated cost estimates are discussed herein.

***Attachment***

None.

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