

September 11, 2025

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: November 2025 OC Bus Service Change

Overview

The proposed November 2025 OC Bus service change implements changes consistent with the Making Better Connections final service plan. These changes will reduce wait times and improve overall service quality and reliability. Minor adjustments to bus schedules in response to customer comments and coach operator feedback are also included.

Recommendation

Receive and file as an information item.

Background

In late 2022, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) completed a comprehensive study of the bus transit system, known as the Making Better Connections (MBC) Study. The MBC Study assessed emerging travel trends and recommended optimizing the transit network to better serve Orange County residents, workers, and visitors. The Board of Directors approved the final service plan that emerged from the MBC Study in October 2022. The MBC Study strives to improve bus service on high-ridership routes, reduce wait times, and optimize route structures. OCTA continues to implement these improvements steadily through the service change process. With the implementation of changes through the November 2025 service change, 90 percent of the recommendations included in the MBC study will have been implemented.

OCTA implements regular schedule and route revisions to selected OC Bus routes four times a year (February, May, August, and November). The proposed bus service changes discussed herein are scheduled for implementation on November 9, 2025.

Discussion

OCTA regularly monitors OC Bus performance and makes adjustments as needed to improve the service. These adjustments consider changes in traffic conditions, school schedules, land-use changes, customer comments, current ridership demand, and coach operator feedback. The changes are intended to improve the performance of individual bus routes and transit service overall.

The proposed changes for November 2025 will primarily focus on improvements to service quality and reliability. These changes focus on the following enhancements/modifications:

- Alignment changes on Routes 1, 29, 54, 59, 123, and 129
 - o Route 1
 - Eliminate the current loop at Warner Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway with service maintained at the nearby Pacific Coast Highway and Warner Avenue bus stops.
 - o Route 29
 - Shorten the route from its current northern terminal at Beach Boulevard and La Habra Boulevard to the Buena Park Metrolink Station via Beach Boulevard, Artesia Boulevard, and Dale Street (see Route 129 for service on this segment).
 - o Route 54
 - Due to construction at Santiago Canyon College, relocate the current northern terminal at Chapman Avenue and Santiago Canyon College to Broadmoor Trail and Santiago Canyon College.
 - o Route 59
 - Extend the route from its current northern terminal at La Palma Avenue and Kraemer Boulevard to the Brea Mall.
 - o Route 123
 - Relocate the northern terminal from outside Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station at La Palma Avenue and Link Street to the newly opened bus bays adjacent to the station.

- o Route 129
 - Extend the route from its current western terminal at Beach Boulevard and La Habra Boulevard to the Buena Park Metrolink Station via Beach Boulevard, Artesia Boulevard, and Dale Street.
 - Shorten the route from its current eastern terminal at La Palma Avenue and Kraemer Boulevard to the Brea Mall (see Route 59 for service on this segment).
- Frequency improvements on Routes 25, 33, 50, 53, 59, 129, and 143
- Frequency reduction on Routes 29 and 529
- Minor schedule adjustments to address customer feedback on Routes 43 and 56
- Schedule adjustments to improve on-time performance on Routes 42, 54, 59, 60, 66, 129, 143, and 553

The proposed November 2025 changes are detailed in Attachment A and represented in Attachments B, C, and D.

The proposed changes would result in an increase in bus service levels of approximately 43,000 revenue vehicle hours annually, which is consistent with the current OCTA Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget.

Summary

The proposed November 2025 OC Bus service change will result in several adjustments to OC Bus service. These adjustments include improvements to service quality and reliability, frequency changes, and several route alignment changes. Customers will be notified of the changes three weeks prior to implementation.

Attachments

- A. November 2025 OC Bus Service Change: Recommendations by Route
- B. November 2025 Service Change: Bus Route Recommendations Map
- C. Routes 29, 59, and 129 Alignment Changes
- D. Routes 1, 54, and 123 Alignment Changes

Prepared by:

Eric Hoch

Transportation Analyst, Sr.

(714) 560-5830

Approved by:

Lose Casey

Rose Casey

Executive Director, Planning

(714) 560-5729