



**March 12, 2026**

**To:** Transit Committee  
**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
**Subject:** May 2026 OC Bus Service Change

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

**Overview**

The proposed May 2026 OC Bus service change implements changes consistent with Orange County Transportation Authority's regular service change process. These changes will result in updated schedules and improved service 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**

Orange County Transportation Authority (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 May 10, 2026.

**Discussion**

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

The proposed changes for May 2026 will primarily focus on weekday frequency adjustments, on-time performance improvements, and minor schedule adjustments to enhance reliability. These changes include the following modifications:

- Frequency reductions on Routes 25, 30, 33, 35, 46, 50, and 70.
- Schedule adjustments to improve on-time performance on Routes 25, 56, 60, 70, and 79.
- Minor schedule adjustments to address customer feedback on Routes 53, 54, 66, 85, and 553.
- Seasonal transition to summer schedules on Routes 1, 29, 47, and 89 due to an increase in beach traffic.

The proposed changes include several frequency reductions that have been carefully planned through an analysis of OC Bus ridership to minimize the impact on customers by targeting low-ridership routes and off-peak periods. These proposed changes will ensure that OCTA maintains the revenue vehicle hours that have been budgeted for OC Bus service in fiscal year 25-26. OCTA staff will continue to monitor resource availability and evaluate opportunities to restore service frequencies on the affected routes as conditions allow.

As of early 2026, OCTA has nearly completed the implementation of the final Making Better Connections Plan changes with the extension of Route 57 short trips to California State University, Fullerton as one of the remaining changes. This change will improve service frequency to the university and is being planned for the August 2026 OC Bus service change to coincide with the start of the new school year, subject to available resources.

The proposed May 2026 changes are detailed in Attachment A and represented in Attachment B.

The proposed changes would result in a decrease in bus service levels of approximately 22,125 revenue vehicle hours annually. There will be a temporary increase of an additional 2,853 revenue vehicles hours on Routes 1, 29, 47, and 89 during the summer period. System-wide service levels would decrease to about 1.625 million annual revenue vehicle hours, consistent with budgeted resource levels.

### ***Summary***

The proposed May 2026 OC Bus service change will result in several changes to OC Bus service. These changes include frequency adjustments, improvements to service reliability, minor schedule adjustments, and the transition to the seasonal summer schedules on select routes. Customers will be notified of the changes three weeks prior to implementation.

**Attachments**

- A. May 2026 OC Bus Service Change: Recommendations by Route
- B. May 2026 OC Bus Service Change: Bus Route Recommendations Map

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