



October 6, 2025

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

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 world-wide events represent significant regional mobility challenges and opportunities. The planning focus is to deliver safe, 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 efforts, outlines estimated funding needs, and presents recommendations for future actions.

Recommendations

- A. Direct staff to work with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to continue to plan and implement World Cup 2026 transit service.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a funding agreement between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to obtain reimbursement from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for World Cup 2026 transit service expenses.
- C. Direct staff to seek state and federal funding opportunities for Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games transit service.

Background

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2026 (WC26) will include eight matches at SoFi Stadium (Stadium) between June 12 and July 10, 2026. A transit-first approach is planned, with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) estimating that over 80 percent of spectators and workforce will use transit. More than 300 buses are expected to be required to operate bus service between parking facilities, mobility hubs, and Union Station. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and LA Metro staff are in discussions on potential support options, including bus service from the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) to the Stadium.

The Los Angeles 2028 (LA28) Olympic and Paralympic Games (Games) will include more than 800 events at over 80 venues across the region over 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 connecting spectators via OC Bus, Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), and Amtrak to these venues. LA Metro has estimated a need for an additional 2,700 buses to provide LA28 Games-related services, with Orange County serving as both a venue and a hospitality hub. Currently, LA Metro has secured approximately 900 buses from various transit operators throughout the nation, including - approximately five buses from OCTA.

Discussion

OCTA and LA Metro have coordinated planning over the past 18 months to prepare for WC26 and LA28. This includes exploring Games Enhanced Transit Service (GETS), Mobility Hubs, Games Route Network, First/Last Mile, Transportation Demand Management, and Park-and-Ride as options to complete the Games transportation component. OCTA staff attended the September 4, 2025, LA28 Games Summit hosted by LA Metro which highlighted how WC26 will serve as a beta test for the LA28 transit-first strategy.

World Cup 2026

LA Metro officials confirmed that spectator and workforce parking at the Stadium will be highly limited, and nearly all spectator and workforce transportation demand must be met by additional public transportation services. LA Metro anticipates carrying roughly 30,000 people by public transportation to and from the Stadium for each match, roughly six times the magnitude of a regular national

football league game. For WC26, this includes bus service to the Stadium from remote park-and-ride locations and mobility hubs, with advanced reservations, QR code ticketing, and no on-site cash handling. These sites will be located across Los Angeles and Orange counties, providing direct transportation options to the Stadium from across the region. Sites include college campuses (under-utilized during the summer months), major bus and rail transfer centers such as the new Los Angeles International Airport/Metro Transit Center and Downtown Union Station, and nearby LA Metro rail stations. These systems will also be used for LA28, demonstrating the role of WC26 acting as a test case for the LA28 Games.

The match times and information about which teams will be playing in the initial matches will not be known until December 2025. Event start times could range from 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

LA Metro has been working with regional transit operators to ascertain vehicle and operator availability for supporting the park-and-ride operations. Given the high concentration of hotels in the Anaheim Resort area, accessibility to Metrolink and Amtrak trains at ARTIC, and ample parking spaces available at the Honda Center/OC Vibe, OCTA and LA Metro agree there is likely a need for a bus service between ARTIC and the Stadium during WC26 matches.

High-level cost estimates have been developed for OCTA to operate bus service between ARTIC and the Stadium with the following key assumptions:

- 18 vehicles
- 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)
- Cost per hour of operation: \$225.67

Based on these assumptions, the total cost estimate (including contingency) is approximately \$300,000 for the WC26 bus service from ARTIC. OCTA and LA Metro have engaged in discussions regarding reimbursement by LA Metro for OCTA providing transportation for WC26 matches.

LA28 Games

OCTA staff has continued to advance venue-specific planning for the LA28 Games. This includes participation in an LA28 Event Operational Planning

session for the Honda Center and a site visit to Trestles Beach during the Surfers Pro tournament. Discussions have ensued amongst OCTA and other regional stakeholders regarding the possibility of a temporary rail station platform to support events at Trestles Beach. These engagements have helped refine operational assumptions and identify key planning challenges. Key challenges remain for planning and cost estimation efforts, especially for the GETS, security perimeters, and clarification of roles and responsibilities. Engagement with LA28 (the organizing committee) has been initiated to address these challenges, though feedback has been limited to date. The response from LA28 regarding OCTA membership in the Games Mobility Executive (GME) Group is pending. Participation in this group is expected to significantly enhance coordination and planning efforts.

The competition schedule, released in July 2025, confirms up to four volleyball sessions per day at the Honda Center, with peak days accommodating approximately 72,000 attendees (18,000 per session). The Honda Center is active for all 16 days of the LA28 Games. At Trestles Beach, there will be one surfing session per day over four days, with contingency days as needed.

In late June, staff attended the LA28 Event Operational Planning meeting related to the Honda Center. Below is a synopsis of this meeting.

- Organizers anticipate significant transportation impacts and are promoting transit use, along with remote work policies, to ease system pressures.
- Key planning factors remain unresolved, including the definition of the security perimeter in coordination with the United States Secret Service, parking, access arrangements at Angel Stadium of Anaheim, and the potential impact of major league baseball scheduling.
- Athlete housing is tentatively planned at the University of California, Irvine, with LA28 managing athlete transportation between venues.
- Planning is advancing under the GME through approximately 13 specialized subcommittees, though coordination remains a concern. Major operational milestones include 60 percent completion by the end of 2025, 80 percent by 2026, 90 percent by 2027, and full readiness by mid-2028, with operational testing anticipated prior to live events.

In September, staff attended the LA Metro LA28 Summit, which convened a broad stakeholder group to discuss current planning assumptions. Topics included accessibility and equity, dedicated transit lanes and traffic management, expanded bus fleet and services, active transportation solutions,

fan zones and open streets, security and law enforcement coordination, and infrastructure requirements.

In October, OCTA will convene two meetings with local agency/partners to address transportation planning needs and explore opportunities for regional support related to the use of the Honda Center and Trestles Beach as LA28 Games event venues. In addition, LA28 has scheduled a Trestles Security and Transportation Working Group - Event Operational Planning meeting to discuss the specific venue logistics for this location in early October. Future activities will focus on advancing discussions on roles and responsibilities with partner agencies and identifying the funding needs for games-related services.

Summary

OCTA's continued collaboration with LA Metro, LA28, and other key stakeholders is critical to ensure successful planning and delivery of transit services for WC26 and LA28 Games. The proposed actions will position OCTA to secure reimbursement, identify funding, and minimize impacts to current riders while supporting two of the largest sporting events in United States history.

Attachment

None.

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