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OCTEC Bazette

The Official Newsletter of
the Orange County Traffic
Engineers Council

2010-2011— Issue 4
February 2011

PROGRAM TOPIC & SPEAKERS



Program:

With a decrease in bus service of approximately 400,000 revenue vehicle hours per year, OCTA'S bus system has changed. In June 2010, the OCTA began the Transit System Study. The study aims to improve the efficiency of fixed route and paratransit bus services by suggesting cost-effective and sustainable strategies and methods that are within OCTA's budget and funding forecasts within the next 10 years. The study findings will integrate resources with ridership demand and accommodate new transit initiatives and services including the Metrolink Service Expansion Program and the Renewed Measure M (M2) Go Local Project S (Transit Extensions to Metrolink). The final study is expected this summer.

Gordon Robinson is a Project Manager in the Transit Planning section at the OCTA. Currently leading the Transit System Study, he is researching cost-effective and efficient methods for improving bus

service in Orange County. Robinson is involved with transit planning efforts on all 77 bus routes including new services, routing adjustments, and the Go Local and Metrolink Service Expansion initiatives. He graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in Physical Geography, and worked as a consultant in the private sector for 9 years before joining the OCTA in 2002.

Cesar L. Espitia is a Senior Transportation Analyst in the Transit Planning section at the OCTA. His current work includes Transit System Study and the Step Two Go Local/Project V program. The Step Two Go Local/Project V program identifies new service possibilities to help Orange County residents traveling to/from Metrolink Stations or traveling within their own communities. Espitia holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from M.I.T., and a master's degree in Transportation Engineering from UC Berkley. He worked as a consultant in the private sector for 4 years before coming to the OCTA in 2008.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting will be at
(NEW LOCATION):

Buca di Beppo
February 24, 2011
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

13390 Jamboree Rd, Irvine, CA
(Irvine/Tustin Market Place)

\$20 (\$25 without RSVP)

VIP Express Lane for check-in to the luncheon. No more waiting in a long line! Reserve a spot.

Please go to: [http://
octecfeb2011.eventbrite.com/](http://octecfeb2011.eventbrite.com/)

OR

Please RSVP to Melissa Hewitt at
Melissa.Hewitt@kimley-horn.com

OCTEC Annual Membership Drive

**Pay at Meeting or on-
line:**

<http://octec.eventbrite.com/>

For more information

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LOCAL NEWS

Caltrans has announced applications for projects are being accepted for the following:

Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) FY 2011-12:

Description

- Annual program that provides state funds for city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters.

Eligibility

- City or county must prepare and adopt a Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) that complies with Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2.
- BTP must be approved by the local agency's Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

Funding

- Matching basis of minimum 10%; Will not receive more than 25% (1.8M) of total amount to BTA in a single fiscal year.

Webpage

- <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/bta/btawebPage.htm>

Due: March 18, 2011

Contact: Ann Mahaney

(916) 653-0036

ann_mahaney@dot.ca.gov

FTA 5310 Call for Projects:

Description

- To meet the transportation needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities in areas where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate.

Eligible Applicants

- Private non-profit corporations; Public agencies where no private non-profits are readily available to provide the proposed service; Public agencies that have been approved by the State to coordinate services.

Eligible Equipment

- Accessible vans and buses; Mobile radios and communication equipment; Computer hardware and software.

Funding

- Approximately \$25 million in Federal funds are available for this cycle.
- Receive up to 88.53% in funds and provide at least 11.47% in local match.

Webpage

- <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5310.html>

Due: March 4, 2011

Contact: Patrice Carroll

(916) 654-9775

patrice.carroll@dot.ca.gov

Transportation Planning Grants FY 2011-12:

Description

- Planning projects that improve mobility and lead to the planning, programming, and implementation of transportation improvement projects
- Programs: Community-Based Transportation Planning, Environmental Justice, Partnership Planning, and Transit Planning.

Guidelines

- http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/grants/Final_Grant_Guide2.pdf

Due: March 4, 2011

(916) 654-9775

patrice.caroll@dot.ca.gov

California Budget: Transportation

January 11, 2011

By Gary Richards

Mercury News

After years of using transportation funds to help pay for state deficits, Bay Area officials were pleased Monday at the budget proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Current funding levels would be maintained, and truck weight fees would be used instead of gas tax revenues to pay the debt on state transportation bonds.

Bay Area transportation officials say Brown's plan would provide a stable source of funding for transit and highway planning across the state, and that could speed up work on some projects.

"This is an encouraging start," said Michael Burns, general manager of the Valley Transportation Authority. "We'll be funding public transportation at a level pretty much close to what the average has been for the past few years."

Weight fees on trucks total \$900 million to \$1 billion a year, are not subject to the same restrictions as excise fuel taxes and may be used to pay for the cost of debt service.

Last fall, California voters approved Proposition 22 to protect local governments from state raids on transportation funds. That measure will likely cost the state \$800 million in this year's budget.

But using truck weight fees will cover that gap without cutting transportation funding.

"We've been facing doom and gloom for so many years that we're just seeking some long-term stability," said Randy Rentschler, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in Oakland, which oversees \$1 billion a year in federal and state aid to the nine Bay Area counties.

"We want to stop the bleeding," he added. "That's what this budget does."

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OCTEC Gazette

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October	Albert Grover & Associates and Econolite	May	
January	Iteris & DKS Associates	June	Iteris
February	Kimley-Horn and Associates & RBF	July	No Meeting / No Newsletter
March		August	No Meeting / No Newsletter

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