

Meeting of Sept. 8, 2025

OCTA Promotes Safer Streets for Walkers, Cyclists and E-Bike Riders

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Board of Directors received an update on the agency's efforts to advance walking, biking and e-bike safety across Orange County.

These efforts include school safety initiatives, community outreach, infrastructure planning and data collection to support safer, more accessible active transportation. Efforts include:

- **E-Bike Safety Action Plan:** OCTA finalized the plan in late 2024, which identifies gaps in e-bike safety efforts and outlines strategies to address those gaps. OCTA is beginning to implement the plan by creating four stakeholder groups to guide and coordinate e-bike safety efforts, with meetings scheduled to begin in fall 2025.
- **Next STEP Project:** OCTA, in partnership with the Orange County Health Care Agency, is partnering with city staff, schools and school districts to conduct walking and bicycling education and encouragement, and conduct audits to assess infrastructure needs at 25 participating elementary schools throughout Orange County.
- **OC Connect Project:** The OC Connect project would create an approximately 4-mile biking and walking trail connecting Garden Grove and Santa Ana. OCTA has completed the project's environmental phase and has secured \$6 million to move into final design.
- **Bicycle Count Data:** OCTA collected data at 450 locations in May 2025, updating its bicycle counts database with details on travel patterns, e-bike use and helmet usage, and made the data available to local agencies for analysis, planning and grant applications.

More Than \$40 Million Available to Improve Traffic Flow in Orange County

The OCTA Board issued its annual call for projects aimed at improving traffic flow and mobility throughout Orange County.

Approximately \$30 million is available through the Regional Capacity Program, which funds improvements to major streets and intersections, and another \$12 million through the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program, which provides funding to time traffic lights along streets that can span multiple cities throughout Orange County.

Cities and the county can propose projects through both competitive programs, which are funded by Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation.

Project applications are due by Nov. 20 and are expected to be considered by the board in the spring.

Green Lights Ahead: Signal Synchronization Reduces Delays and Emissions

OCTA, working with local cities, the county and Caltrans, continues to advance efforts to synchronize traffic signals in Orange County, helping reduce delays, improve traffic flow and cut emissions.

Since 2008, OCTA and its partners have completed 109 projects covering nearly 1,000 miles of streets and 3,789 intersections. These improvements have cut travel times by 13%, reduced stops by 28% and boosted average speeds by 14%. Together, these improvements are projected to save Orange County drivers nearly \$249 million in fuel costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.3 billion pounds over a three-year cycle.

Currently, 30 additional projects are underway, synchronizing another 1,467 intersections and 283 miles of streets.

OCTA is also launching the Countywide Signal Synchronization Baseline Project, which will retime approximately 2,500 intersections. Implementation is scheduled to begin in 2026 and conclude in 2029.