



Larry Agran, Mayor

1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92623-9575

[cityofirvine.org](http://cityofirvine.org)

949-724-6233

May 14, 2026

The Honorable Sheila Hanson  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Orange  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Presiding Judge Hanson:

The City of Irvine received the *Connecting Orange County to LAX: Evaluating Transportation Options* report and considered the item at its April 14, 2026, City Council meeting. The City acknowledges the importance of providing viable public transportation options for its residents as evidenced by the successful launch of IrvineCONNECT, a fixed-route resident serving neighborhood shuttle, which stops at key destinations including schools, neighborhood and regional retail centers, medical facilities, and the Irvine Station. In addition, the City operates TRIPS, an advanced reservation wheelchair-accessible service, which serves residents ages 18-59 with disabilities as well as residents aged 60 and older, The City also recently launched WeRide. WeRide offers same-day, flexible rides for adults aged 60 and older, focusing on short, local trips for residents with more immediate transportation needs.

While the City has been able to advance public transportation initiatives, funding for local jurisdictions is a significant obstacle for transit-related activities including planning efforts, implementation, operations, and maintenance. The City utilizes various grant funding resources and in the case of IrvineCONNECT, special restricted funds (Proposition 116). Given funding challenges along with the failure of the prior FlyAway® service at Irvine Station as highlighted in the Grand Jury report, the City of Irvine's comments are further detailed below.

In response to the report and following subdivision (b) of Section 933, the City provides the following responses to finding F3 and recommendation R5:

**Finding F3** – *The Irvine Transportation Center is a viable potential location for direct bus service to LAX due to its location near South Orange County, freeway access, and multimodal connectivity, despite being fifty miles from LAX.*

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding –

Presiding Judge Hanson  
May 14, 2026  
Page 2

The City agrees that the Irvine Station would be a viable potential location for direct bus service to LAX and would dedicate a bus stall at the Irvine Station for FlyAway® or other transit service willing to provide direct transportation to LAX.

**Recommendation R5** – *By September 30, 2026, the Irvine City Council should direct its Transportation Department to review the previous FlyAway® service that ended in 2012, engage the LAWA Mobility Unit or any other express bus service of their choice, and, upon receiving City Council approval, submit a business case study to LAWA or other express bus service(s). This study should include projected ridership, financial sustainability, infrastructure readiness, and community benefits to support funding of the proposed service. [F3]*

(4) The recommendation will not be fully implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore -

The City is supportive of seeing service to LAX resume and will engage with the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Mobility Unit or other express bus service to discuss possibilities. With the City's limited transit funding, it will not pursue the business case study or funding for the service. Funding for a business case study or for operations of the service would need to be provided by LAWA or other interested providers. Since the prior FlyAway® service operating out of the Irvine Station proved to have low ridership and ended in bankruptcy, the City questions whether it would be sustainable and successful. If LAWA or other providers are willing to conduct the study and decide to resume direct service to LAX, the City will work with them to spread the word to the community and dedicate a bus stall at the Irvine Station for this purpose.

If LAWA is unable to resume the service, there is presently the viable option of Metrolink or Amtrak service from Irvine Station to LA Union Station and transfer to the FlyAway® bus service to LAX. While this option takes longer than direct service, the cost of \$23.75 for Metrolink/FlyAway® service and \$31.75 for Amtrak/FlyAway® service provides a reasonable option.

Sincerely,



Larry Agran  
Mayor  
City of Irvine

cc: Irvine City Council  
Sean Crumby, City Manager