



August 14, 2025

To: Transit Committee
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: OC Streetcar Project Quarterly Update

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority is implementing the OC Streetcar Project, and updates are provided to the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. This report covers OC Streetcar Project activities from May 2025 through July 2025.

Recommendation

Receive and file as an information item.

Background

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in cooperation with the cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove, is implementing a modern streetcar running between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center in the City of Santa Ana (City) and the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Westminster Avenue in the City of Garden Grove. The OC Streetcar Project (Project) will improve transit connectivity and accessibility, increase transit options, relieve congestion, and provide benefits to the community and traveling public. The Project is being implemented as part of Measure M2 Project S – Transit Extensions to Metrolink, approved by Orange County voters in November 2006.

Construction of the 4.15-mile alignment involves complex and specialized work, including the installation of embedded track in existing streets, an overhead contact system (OCS) to supply power to the vehicles, new traffic signals and transit signal priority at intersections, stops with canopies, bridges, and a maintenance and storage facility (MSF). A map of the alignment is included in Attachment A.

The Project includes ten streetcar stops in each direction (four shared center platforms and six side platforms in each direction, for a total of 16 platforms). Each stop includes a canopy, benches, leaning rails, trash cans, lighting, variable message signs, video cameras, a public address system, and ticket vending machines. Platforms will be 14 inches high to enable level boarding to streetcar vehicles.

The MSF can accommodate up to 15 modern streetcar vehicles, as well as all necessary administration, operations, vehicle maintenance, parts storage, and maintenance-of-way needs for the Project. The MSF will also include secured exterior vehicle storage, a wye track for turning vehicles end-for-end, a free-standing vehicle wash, employee parking, and fire department/delivery access.

On March 26, 2018, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) awarded a contract to Siemens Industries, Inc. (Siemens) for the manufacturing and delivery of eight modern streetcar vehicles, spare parts, and special tools. On September 24, 2018, the Board awarded the construction contract for the Project to Walsh Construction Company II, LLC (Walsh). On November 30, 2018, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) executed the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA), securing \$149 million in federal New Starts discretionary funding for the Project. In February 2019, the FFGA was funded through the FTA Transit Award Management System, which was the last step necessary to begin the drawdown of federal funding. As of 2025, \$136.6 million has been drawn from the FFGA. On May 22, 2020, the Board awarded a contract to Herzog Transit Services, Inc. (Herzog), to provide operations and maintenance services for the initial start-up and pre-revenue period, and a five-year revenue term.

Discussion

The following is the status of completed milestones and ongoing project activities related to construction, vehicle manufacturing, operations, and public outreach.

Construction

Progress continues to be made on project construction. The bridges over the Santa Ana River and Westminster Avenue are complete, all tracks and OCS poles have been installed, all four traction power substations have been installed and energized, and station platforms and major amenities have been installed.

During the reporting period, construction throughout the Project continued to progress. The activities that are complete or ongoing this quarter include:

Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW)

- Overhead wire installation on OCS poles is over 95 percent complete
- Train warning and gate systems installation at the Fairview Street, Fifth Street, and Raitt Street at-grade crossings are complete
- Landscaping and irrigation work is complete
- Pedestrian gates and final striping at Harbor Station are complete
- Final train signal control programming is ongoing

MSF

- Electrical and water services have been established
- Installation of safety gates in maintenance bays are complete
- Maintenance bay equipment and storage racks are complete
- Installation of workstations and furniture is ongoing
- Showers and locker rooms are complete
- Parking lot and maintenance yard striping, including fire lane, is complete
- OCS installation and finalization are ongoing

City Streets

- Installation of railing and wayfinding signs at various stations are ongoing
- Installation of OCS wire from Raitt Street to Bristol Street is complete and from Bristol Street to Flower Street is ongoing
- Landscaping is over 95 percent complete
- Paving at Mortimer Street and 4th Street is complete
- Traction Power Substation 4 at Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center was energized

Streetcar Vehicles

Upon receipt of the temporary certificate of occupancy, OCTA commenced with vehicle delivery. The Siemens commissioning team was deployed to the MSF to set up requisite resources and initiate vehicle system testing as facilities became available. Ninety percent of the special tools, test equipment, and spare parts have been delivered to the MSF.

A significant project milestone occurred at the end of April 2025 with the delivery of the first streetcar vehicle to the MSF, and seven streetcar vehicles have been successfully delivered to the MSF. The eighth and final vehicle is expected to be completed and delivered by late August/early September 2025. Negotiations progressed with Siemens Mobility, Inc. (SMI) regarding long-term storage of the vehicles, and a contract amendment is anticipated to go to the Board in the coming months.

Operations

The following is a status of key operations activities:

- Herzog has successfully received delivery of the streetcar vehicles, along with associated spare parts, special tools, and test equipment.
- Setup of the parts storeroom is underway, with inventory being organized and storage bins assigned. At the same time, inventory data is being entered and updated in the interim asset management system.
- Herzog continues to ramp up workforce mobilization, actively hiring train operators and maintenance technicians.
- On June 17 to 18, 2025, Herzog hosted a recruitment event in the City. The event was well attended and resulted in ten offers for train operators and four offers for maintenance technician positions.
- The first training cohort for train operators and maintenance technicians began during the reporting period.
- Siemens continues to conduct vehicle familiarization and maintenance training with trainers stationed onsite at the MSF.
- System Integration Testing (SIT) and training for the portable electric jacks were completed on July 16 to 17, 2025. The equipment successfully lifted the vehicle and performed as expected.
- In April 2025, OCTA staff joined the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a site inspection of the project alignment to assess progress, identify safety concerns, and verify compliance. A follow-up meeting was held on July 3, 2025, during which OCTA and CPUC staff reviewed the status of action items identified in the April 2025 inspection report.
- Negotiations are ongoing with the City of Garden Grove for the operations and maintenance agreement.

As project construction nears completion and the streetcar vehicles are delivered and tested, the Project is required to be reviewed by the FTA and their Project Management Oversight Contractors (PMOC) to prepare for the start of revenue service. These reviews are concurrent with the ongoing reviews being conducted by the CPUC to certify that the appropriate safety and security oversight is in place and appropriate testing is completed. As a recipient of a FFGA, OCTA is responsible for demonstrating that the Project is ready for revenue service in four key areas, including SIT, Pre-Revenue Operations Planning, Project System Safety & Security Testing, and Management Capacity and Capability. In addition to these key areas, OCTA is required to fulfill the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through an evaluation of the OC Streetcar and OC Bus service plan and fare structure. During the reporting period, staff continued the development of these plans and will be presenting the results of the analysis to the Board in the coming months.

Public Outreach

The following is a status of key public outreach activities:

- Monthly construction activity emails ongoing
- Distribution of bilingual notifications for targeted construction activities, including lane closures and vehicle deliveries are ongoing
- Safety education presentations to joint Flower Park and Downtown Neighborhood Associations, OC Wheelmen, Downtown Business event at Frida Cinema, two OCTA Community Meeting at Lydia Romero Academy have been completed
- Safety education materials distributed at Movies in the Park in the City on June 6, 13, 20, and 27

Cost and Schedule

In February 2025, the Board approved a revised project budget of \$649 million and a revised revenue service date in spring 2026. Staff continues to track project expenditures and schedule accordingly.

Next Steps

OCTA staff will continue to work closely with Walsh to complete the MSF for vehicle testing activities. As the first streetcar vehicle has been delivered, testing will commence late this summer on the PE ROW and then later this fall in the city streets. The outreach team will continue to provide oversight of construction activities, as well as ongoing project education and safety messaging at community events.

Summary

An OC Streetcar Project update covering May 2025 through July 2025 is provided for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors' review.

Attachment

- A. Map of OC Streetcar Project Alignment

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