



May 8, 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 January 2025 through April 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

Significant progress continues to be made on project construction in preparation for the upcoming delivery of OC Streetcar vehicles. The bridges over the Santa Ana River and Westminster Avenue are complete, all tracks and OCS poles have been installed, three of the four traction power substations have been installed and energized, and station platforms and major amenities have been installed.

During the reporting period, several significant project milestones were achieved. The construction milestone related readiness of the MSF to receive vehicles was achieved on February 28, 2025, and a temporary certificate of occupancy for the MSF was issued by the City on March 20, 2025. These milestones were significant accomplishments related to advancing the overall project schedule.

Other construction activities that are complete or ongoing this quarter include:

Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW)

- Overhead wire installation on OCS poles is over 90 percent complete
- Train warning and gate systems installation at the Fairview Street, Fifth Street, and Raitt Street at-grade crossings are over 90 percent complete
- Final train signal control programming is ongoing

MSF

- Installation of underground water lines, landscaping, doors, sidewalk along Fifth Street, Information Technology room, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, drywall, plumbing, and electrical work is complete
- Furniture delivered for a majority of the offices and bathroom plumbing, carpeting, and indoor signage is complete
- Asphalt concrete is complete in the yard track area and the car wash structure is complete
- Installation of the wheel truing machine used for maintenance of the streetcar vehicles is complete

City Streets

- Reconstruction of sidewalks, driveways, and curb and gutter are complete throughout the Project
- Landscaping is over 90 percent complete
- Work at Sasscer Park is complete
- Minor paving activities and striping continue

Streetcar Vehicles

With the temporary certificate of occupancy, OCTA can commence vehicle delivery. In preparation for this milestone, the Siemens commissioning team was deployed to the MSF to set up all requisite resources. In early April 2025, the first set of vehicle special tools and test equipment was delivered to the MSF.

A significant project milestone transpired at the end of April with the delivery of the first streetcar vehicle to the MSF. The remaining vehicles are currently at the Siemens facility in the City of Sacramento and are being prepared for shipment.

Negotiations are progressing with Siemens Mobility, Inc. (SMI) regarding long-term storage and other related items. Staff anticipates returning to the Board in the summer for a potential amendment to the SMI contract.

Operations

The following is a status of key operations activities:

- Herzog continues to mobilize their forces and hire for operators and technicians
- Training has begun on switch maintenance, transfer switches, emergency generators, and lighting control systems. Training activities are expected to increase as MSF occupancy progresses and Herzog and Siemens staff are present on-site
- Final preparations for the Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) training program in compliance with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 175-A are in progress, and staff anticipates that Herzog will begin scheduling training sessions for RWP certification by May 2025
- In April 2025, OCTA staff joined the CPUC for a site inspection of the project alignment to assess progress, identify safety concerns, and ensure compliance
- Negotiations are ongoing with the City of Garden Grove for the operations and maintenance agreement

Public Outreach

The following is a status of key public outreach activities:

- Monthly construction activity email ongoing
- Distribution of bilingual notifications for targeted construction activities, including various lane closures. Preparation for vehicle delivery later this month
- Safety education presentations to Artesia Pilar Neighborhood Association and Santa Ana Collaborative meetings
- Safety education materials distributed at Tet Festival, Carver Elementary School Read Across America Booth, Romero/Cruz Open House, Magnolia Science Academy Health Fair, Garfield Elementary Open House, and Lydia Romero School

Cost and Schedule

In February 2025, the Board approved a revised project budget of \$649 million and a revised revenue service date of March 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 spring in the PE ROW and then later this summer in the 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 January 2025 through April 2025 is provided for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors' review.

Attachment

A. Project Alignment

Prepared by:

Jeff Mills, P.E.
Director, Capital Project Delivery
(714) 560-5925

Approved by:

James G. Beil, P.E.
Executive Director, Capital Programs
(714) 560-5646