



July 11, 2024

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 April 2024 through June 2024.

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 (SARTC) 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).

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. Through May 2024, \$135,073,233 has been drawn down on the FFGA. On May 22, 2020, the Board awarded a contract to Herzog Transit Services, Inc., (Herzog) to provide operations and maintenance services for an initial start-up and pre-revenue period, and a five-year revenue term.

Discussion

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

Construction

- Construction is approximately 86 percent complete
- The Santa Ana River and Westminster bridges are complete
- Installation of all tracks and OCS poles are complete
- Reinterment of cultural resources at the MSF is complete
- Traction power substation (TPSS) 1 and 2 are energized
- TPSS 3 and 4 were delivered and set in foundations and will be energized in the coming months
- Canopies are installed at all station platforms

The status of construction activities that are complete or ongoing this quarter include:

Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PEROW)

- Overhead wire installation on OCS poles
- Train warning and gate systems installation at the Fairview Street, Fifth Street, and Raitt Street at-grade crossings

MSF

- Installation of underground water lines, backfill, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, drywall, plumbing, and electrical work
- Installation of splash shield and plumbing work at the train wash
- Continued coordination with contractor to ensure significant completion of the MSF for vehicle acceptance

City Streets

- Reconstruction of sidewalks, driveways, and curb and gutter continue
- Installation of pavers and other concrete work at Sasscer Park
- Installation of signals, signage, and the electrical systems
- Placing of final pavement and striping on roadway

Vehicles

The status of vehicle activities that are complete or ongoing this quarter include:

- Final inspection for Car 8 was held on June 13, 2024
- All eight vehicles are complete and in storage at Siemens Facility
- Spare parts and special tools are in storage at the Siemens facility
- OCTA is in ongoing negotiations with Siemens regarding long-term storage estimates for the vehicles, vehicle warranty extension, and vehicle maintenance during storage. Staff anticipates returning to the Board in fall 2024 for contract amendments required for Siemens as a result of these discussions.

Operations

The status of operations activities that are complete or ongoing this quarter include:

- Completed Rule Book internal review. The Rule Book establishes rules and instructions to govern the performance and conduct of the operations and maintenance employees in providing safe, reliable, and courteous service. It is required by the FTA and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) during the pre-revenue operations phase of the Project and as part of safety certification before revenue service.
- Development of start-up, testing, and revenue service documents.
- The draft Systems Integration Test (SIT) Plan was shared with the SIT Committee. The plan outlines responsibilities and the process for testing the interface between the vehicle, mainline, and MSF.
- The Rail Activation Committee met to report on the activities of the SIT Committee and Operations Working Group.
- CPUC held a risk-based inspections meeting with OCTA to review new program requirements for data driven inspections.
- Ongoing negotiations with City of Garden Grove for the operations and maintenance agreement.

Public Outreach

The status of public outreach activities that are complete or ongoing this quarter include:

- Distributed bilingual notifications for:
 - Traction power substation activities at Civic Center Plaza and at the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center.
 - Pedestrian handrail installation near Sixth Street and Mortimer.
 - Rolling traffic closures on Fourth Street starting at Ross Street to Mortimer Street for overhead wire installations.
- Developed bilingual postcard highlighting safety messaging about overhead wire installation along corridor.
- Reviewed and provided comments to consultant team for Safety Education and Public Awareness Campaign presentation, flyer and two brochures.
- Outreach team members staffed an information table at the City's Public Works Community Event on May 18, 2024. More than 100 attendees stopped by to take informational flyers and talk with staff.

Cost and Schedule

In April 2023, the Board approved a revised project budget of \$579,160,000. As previously reported to the Board, OCTA continues to report to the FTA the risk-adjusted revenue service date of August 2025. While staff continues to actively manage Walsh to advance the Project, construction and legal challenges continue to present risks. As such, staff has begun an effort with the FTA to assess the remaining schedule and cost risks, and staff will update the Board regarding this effort later this year.

Next Steps

OCTA staff will continue to work closely with Walsh to complete the MSF for vehicle delivery and testing requirements. Construction activities include the installation of hardware and overhead wires, station platforms infrastructure and canopies, continued paving work, and service connections for the remaining two-traction power substations. Negotiations will continue with Siemens regarding the long-term storage of the completed eight vehicles. The outreach team will continue to provide oversight of traffic control measures, new signal installation, and system electrification, as well as ongoing project education and safety messaging at community events.

Summary

An OC Streetcar project update covering April 2024 through June 2024 is provided for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors' review.

Attachment

None.

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