




October 10, 2024

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

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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 July 2024 through September 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. As of August 2024, \$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 milestones completed and ongoing project activities related to construction, vehicle manufacturing, operations, and public outreach.

Construction

- Construction is nearing 90 percent complete overall
- The bridges over the Santa Ana River and Westminster Avenue 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, 2, and 3 are energized
- TPSS 4 will be energized in the coming months
- Canopies, lighting, and customer information center cabinets/hardware are installed at all station platforms

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

Pacific Electric Right-of-Way

- 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, doors, sidewalk along Fifth Street, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, drywall, plumbing, and electrical work
- Asphalt concrete placed at the yard track area
- Continued coordination with contractor to ensure significant completion of the MSF for vehicle acceptance

City Streets

- Reconstruction of sidewalks, driveways, curbs, and gutters are mostly complete throughout the Project
- Landscaping is mostly complete from Fairview Street through Santiago Street
- Pavers and landscaping done in Sasscer Park
- Installation of signals, signage, and the electrical systems at multiple locations

Vehicles

The status of key 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 late 2024 for contract amendments required for Siemens as a result of these discussions

Operations

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

- The System Integration Test (SIT) committee developed comprehensive SIT plans, including support and personnel matrix, test procedures for the mainline and MSF, timeline, and schedule. The SIT documents outline the process, timing, and personnel support needed to perform testing of the interface between the vehicle, mainline, and MSF.
- Herzog conducted field reconnaissance and hazard identification along the alignment to assess operating conditions in preparation for start-up and testing.
- Staff participated in the successful factory acceptance test (FAT) of key systems, including the Passenger Information System, the Visual Display System, and the closed-circuit television station cameras. The FAT, a prerequisite to SIT testing, ensured that each component met the required specifications and performance standards before deployment.
- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) continues to be actively engaged on the Project and participates in monthly Safety Certification, Rail Activation Committee, SIT, and Fire Life Safety meetings.
- On August 13, 2024, staff joined the CPUC for a site visit review of Segment 1 to identify any potential compliance or safety concerns. This visit included reviewing the bridges over the Santa Ana River and Westminster Avenue, and the at-grade crossings at Fairview Street and Fifth Street. An activities report was received in September 2024 from the CPUC with their comments.
- Ongoing negotiations with City of Garden Grove for the operations and maintenance agreement.

Public Outreach

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

- Monthly construction activity email
- Distribution of bilingual notifications for targeted activities:
 - Traffic detour at northbound Mortimer Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets
 - Reduced lane at Ross Street between Santa Ana Boulevard and Fourth Street

- Reviewed and provided comments to OCTA's consultant team for a safety education and public awareness campaign video
- OCTA staffed an information table at the City's Fiestas Patrias celebration and provided parade banners to downtown business representatives
- Outreach staff hosted information tables and distributed safety education and public awareness materials at back-to-school events at Woodbury Elementary, Santiago High School, Romero Cruz Academy and Middle School, and Garfield Elementary; more than 200 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, in coordination with FTA, have continued to assess the remaining schedule and cost risks, and staff anticipates updating the Board regarding this effort later this year.

Next Steps

OCTA will continue to work closely with Walsh to complete the MSF for vehicle delivery and testing activities. Construction activities include the installation of hardware and overhead wires, station platforms infrastructure, continued paving work, and service connections for the remaining traction power substation and other electrical services. 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 July 2024 through September 2024 is provided for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors' review.

Attachment

None.

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