




January 9, 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 October 2024 through December 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 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) and four traction power substations 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 are 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 also includes 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 November 2024, \$146.1 million has been drawn from the FFGA. On May 22, 2020, the Board awarded a contract to Herzog Transit Services, Inc., 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 over 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 have been completed or are ongoing this quarter include:

Pacific Electric Right-of-Way

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

MSF

- Installation of underground water lines, doors, sidewalk along Fifth Street, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, drywall, plumbing, and electrical work is ongoing.
- Asphalt concrete placed at the yard track area is complete.
- Continued coordination with the contractor to ensure significant completion of the MSF for vehicle acceptance is ongoing.
- Installation of the wheel truing machine used for maintenance of the streetcar vehicles is ongoing.

City Streets

- Reconstruction of sidewalks, driveways, curbs and gutters is over 95 percent complete throughout the Project.
- Landscaping is over 95 percent complete from Fairview Street through Santiago Street and along Westminster Boulevard.
- Pavers and landscaping done in Sasscer Park are complete.
- Installation of signals, signage, and electrical systems at multiple locations is ongoing.

Vehicles

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

- All eight vehicles are complete and in storage at the Siemens facility.
- Spare parts and special tools are in storage at the Siemens facility.
- Discussions are ongoing with Siemens regarding the timing of the vehicle delivery consistent with the availability of the MSF.
- Negotiations are ongoing with Siemens regarding long-term storage estimates for the vehicles, vehicle warranty extension, vehicle maintenance during storage, and computer-aided dispatch/automatic vehicle location equipment. Staff anticipates returning to the Board in

February 2025 for a potential contract amendment required for Siemens as a result of these discussions.

- A post-delivery Buy America audit was performed following the completion of the manufacturing and acceptance of all eight vehicles. Consistent with federal requirements, all certifications have been executed.

Operations

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

- During the reporting period, staff completed Ticket Vending Machine design verification and Safety/Security Certification. Staff also attended contractor training for installing, adjusting, and the maintenance of the OCS wire tensioning.
- On November 18, 2024, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) completed its courtesy review of the Roadway Worker Protection Plan, a critical safety plan needed before the Project can operate under power. The CPUC confirmed the plan's compliance with the requirements.
- In preparation for system operations, the Rail Activation Committee and Systems Integration Testing (SIT) Committee meet monthly. The SIT manager has finalized the SIT plan and test schedule and is working with the operations and maintenance contractor to align test plans with project milestones and refine mainline and MSF SIT test procedures.
- Negotiations are ongoing with the 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 is ongoing.
- Distribution of bilingual notifications for targeted activities is ongoing:
 - Lane closures along Santa Ana Boulevard to accommodate overhead wire installation, electrical work, and other work.
 - Extension of the median at the 5th Street rail crossing requiring traffic detours.
 - The upcoming installation of corridor-wide wire along Santa Ana Boulevard between Pacific Street and Santiago Street will commence before the end of the year. This activity will temporarily affect traffic, parking, and driveway access.
- Approval of a safety education video is complete. The video includes specific safety messaging and reminders assisting pedestrians, drivers,

and cyclists with information and guidance supporting safe movements around and near the tracks and vehicles. The video has been posted to the project website with Spanish and Vietnamese subtitles available.

- OCTA staffed an information table at the City's holiday celebration at 4th Street and French Street. More than 100 visitors stopped by to learn about the Project's features and safety education materials.

Cost and Schedule

In April 2023, the Board approved a revised project budget of \$579 million. As previously reported to the Board, OCTA continues to report to the FTA the risk-adjusted revenue service date of August 2025. Staff, in coordination with the FTA, are assessing the remaining schedule and cost risks, and staff anticipates updating the Board regarding this effort in the first quarter of 2025.

Next Steps

OCTA staff will continue to work closely with Walsh to complete the MSF which will allow for vehicle delivery and testing activities. Continued 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 October 2024 through December 2024 is provided for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors' review.

Attachment

- A. Map of OC Streetcar Project Alignment

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