



November 13, 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 August 2025 through October 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 September 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, nearly 95 percent complete. 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)

- Emergency walkway construction adjacent to the tracks is ongoing
- Final train signal control programming is ongoing
- OCS wire installation on OCS poles is complete

MSF

- OCS wire installation on OCS poles is complete
- Monorail crane system work is ongoing
- Elevator and other work to achieve permanent certificate of occupancy is ongoing
- Mechanical systems commissioning is ongoing
- Installation of workstations and furniture is ongoing
- Storage racks have been received and installed
- Receipt and turnover of shop equipment, spare parts, and special tools is ongoing

City Streets

- Final blackout signs testing and signal priority coordination with the City is ongoing
- Coordination with utilities to meet California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 clearance requirements is ongoing
- Final train signal control programming is ongoing
- OCS wire installation on OCS poles from Raitt Street to Ross Street has been completed
- OCS brackets and arms are installed in preparation for stringing OCS wire for the remainder of the alignment in City streets

Streetcar Vehicles

A significant project milestone occurred in September 2025 with the eighth and final vehicle delivered to the MSF. Over a span of several months, all eight vehicles were successfully delivered as a result of significant coordination between OCTA, the City, Siemens Mobility, Inc. (SMI), and Herzog. Each team provided the necessary functions from traffic control and public outreach to safety reviews and operational training to ensure each delivery was safe and seamless. Post-delivery activities commenced during the quarter with the pantographs being installed on all vehicles and bumpers installed on several of the vehicles.

The Siemens commissioning team, in close coordination with Herzog, the Rail Activation Committee, and System Integration Testing (SIT) Committee continue vehicle system testing as facilities become available at the MSF. Most of the special tools, test equipment, and spare parts have been delivered to the MSF. Negotiations progressed with SMI regarding long-term storage of the vehicles, and a contract amendment is anticipated to go to the Board in the coming months.

Operations

SIT activities are ongoing as follows:

- Vehicle and pantograph clearance tests were successfully completed in the MSF shop, yard, and in the PE ROW in October 2025. For this test, the vehicle was successfully towed from Raitt Street to Harbor Boulevard to ensure clearances can be safely achieved through the platforms, at-grade crossings, and the two bridges along the alignment.
- OCTA staff conducted the MSF energization familiarization tour in September 2025, with the Fire Life Safety and Security Committee and local first responders, providing an overview of MSF operations, electrical safety procedures, and emergency protocols in preparation for system energization.
- Siemens conducted vehicle familiarization training for new maintenance technicians.
- Herzog hosted a second recruitment event in the City. The event was well attended and resulted in seven offers for train operator positions.
- Herzog regularly conducted Track Access and Roadway Worker Protection training to maintain compliance with certification requirements for employees, project staff, and construction contractors.
- Herzog continues to participate in operations and maintenance training provided by vendors, including forklift, traction power substation, gear, and bucket truck training.
- 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 tested, the Project is required to be reviewed by the FTA and their project management oversight contractors 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 an 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 and 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 Project and OC Bus service plan and fare structure. During the reporting period, staff continued the development of these plans.

Public Outreach

The following is a status of key public outreach activities:

- Monthly construction activity emails are ongoing
- Bilingual notifications for targeted construction activities, including lane closures and vehicle deliveries have been distributed
- Safety education presentations provided to MOMS Orange County and Carver Elementary School in August 2025 and October 2025
- Safety education materials distributed at seven back-to-school nights, the Hope Culture Festival, and over two days at the Fiestas Patrias community event

Cost and Schedule

The Project's projected revenue service date, which is when it opens to the public, has shifted from spring 2026 to summer 2026. This is a result of ongoing challenges related to system electrification. The project team continues to manage potential further impacts to the schedule resulting from remaining risks, including system electrification, train communication systems, and testing activities.

The project budget remains at \$649 million as approved by the Board in February 2025.

Next Steps

OCTA staff will continue to work closely with Walsh to complete the MSF and OCS contact wire installation and electrification for vehicle testing activities. Testing will continue on the PE ROW and then begin in the city streets in early 2026. 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 August 2025 through October 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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