

# OC Connect Project Update and Intent to File a California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for the OC Connect Project



# Project Partners



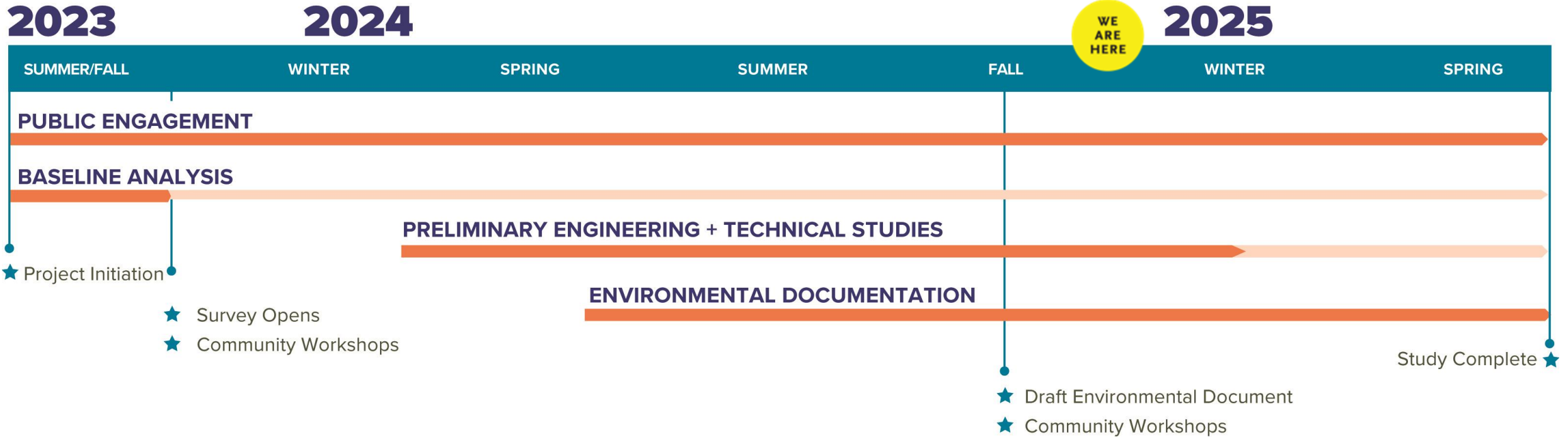
# Project Background



- 1.5 miles in Garden Grove
- 2.3 miles in Santa Ana
- Preliminary engineering and environmental approval phase
- Adjacent to OC Streetcar from Harbor Boulevard to Raitt Street



# Project Schedule



# OC Connect Benefits



**Greater Connectivity**



**New Parks and Green Space**



**Promotes Health + Wellness**



**Provides a Low-Cost  
Transportation Option**



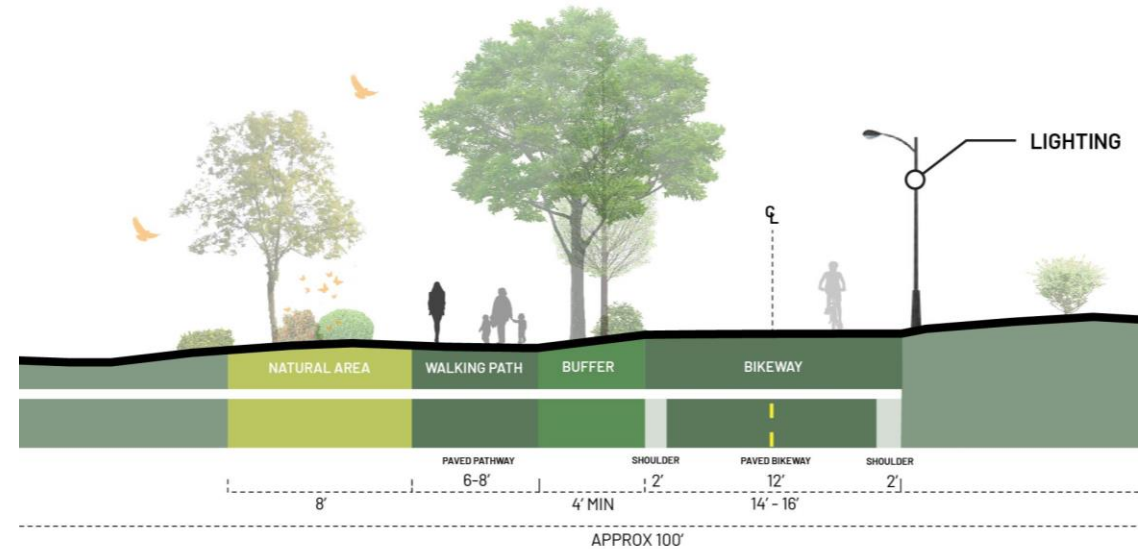
**Historic Preservation**



**Community Identity**

# Design Updates

- Phase I outlines the **project design, features, and limiting existing conditions** for environmental documentation and permitting.
- **Coordinating** the preliminary concept designs with project stakeholders and agencies.



# Design Updates

- Phase I identifies opportunities for **trail features** to be refined in response to feedback received from public outreach and coordination with local jurisdictions.

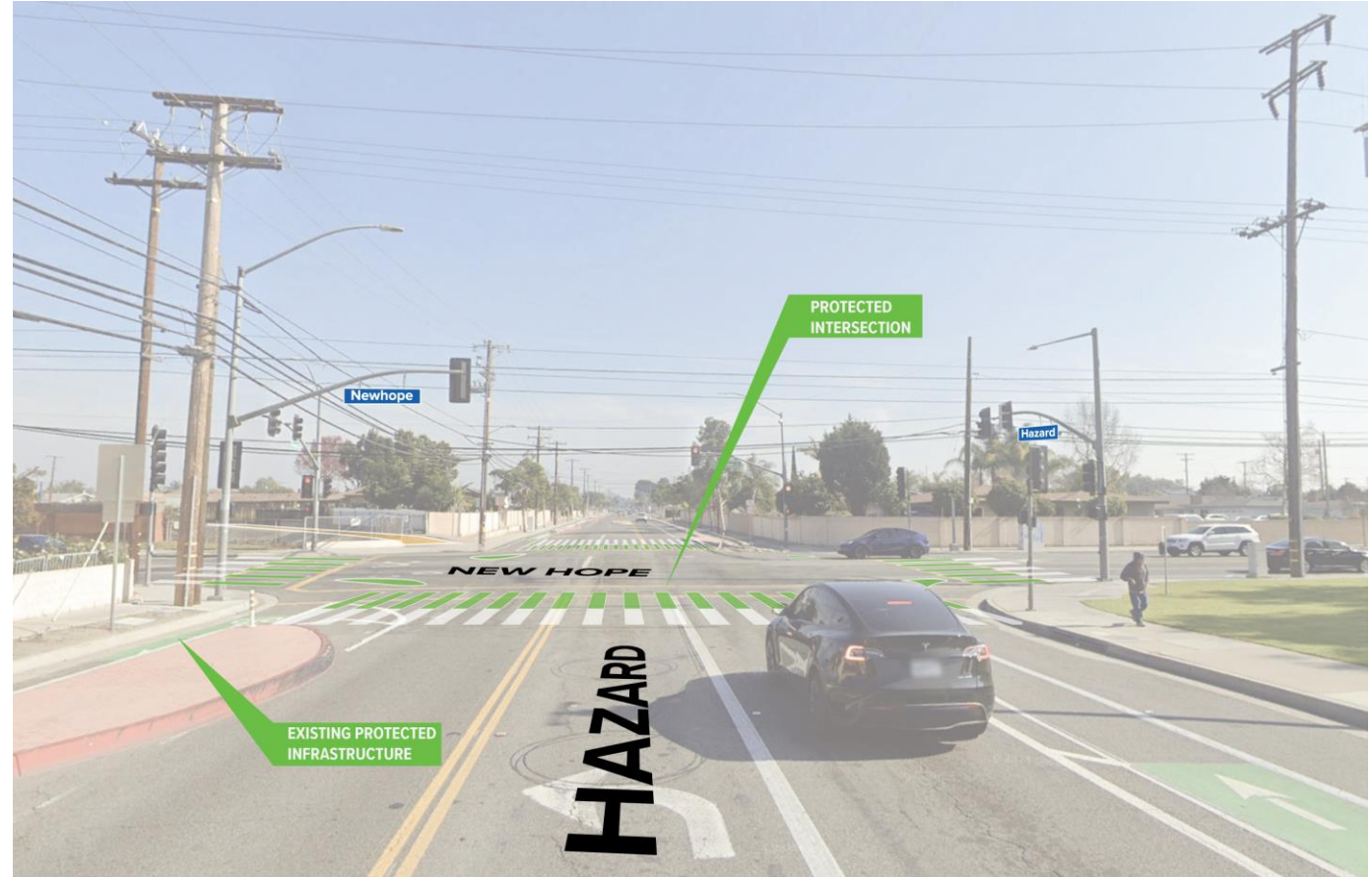


# Design Updates

- **Final 35% plans under review**

- **Design Memo**

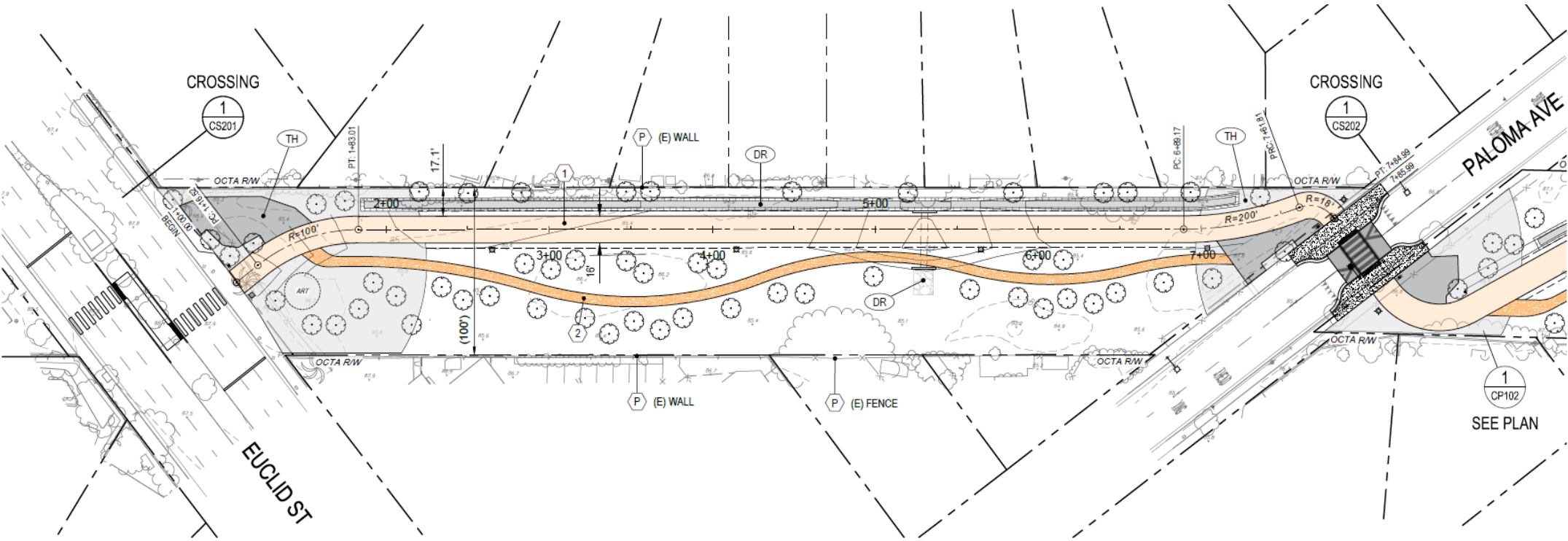
Document to bridge the gap between this 35% design phase and the 100% PS&E Phase



PS&E - Plans, Specifications, and Estimates



# Trail Design Progress



Euclid to Paloma, Linear Park with Wide Right-of-Way

# Community Engagement

Phase I November 6 - December 18, 2023 (six-week engagement period)



Collected **287** survey responses



Received **106** comments on the public input map



Hosted **2** PDT meetings, **1** virtual and **1** in-person community workshop



Engaged **1,280** community members at **5** community pop-ups/events in Garden Grove and Santa Ana



Featured a webpage viewed more than **1,300** times



Collaborated with **2** paid CBO Partners



Promoted the survey and project website on social media **10** Facebook posts, **3** Instagram posts  
**3** X (Twitter) posts with **6,132** impressions



Distributed **3,620** fact sheets to local organizations and businesses



Developed and distributed toolkits, providing easy-to-share communication resources to **51** local organizations



Reached **285** community members through digital noticing



Shared materials in **English, Spanish, and Vietnamese**

CBO – Community-Based Organization  
PDT – Project Development Team

# Community Engagement (Cont.)

Phase II: September 18, 2024 – November 15, 2024

- **Comprehensive Outreach Campaign (English, Spanish and Vietnamese)**
- **Multilingual Community Survey**
- **Public Meetings**
  - In-Person Meeting – Wednesday, October 2; Vista Heritage Global Academy, Santa Ana
  - Virtual Meeting – Wednesday, October 9
  - OCTA RTP – Monday, November 4; OCTA Administrative Offices
  - In-person Meeting – Thursday November 7; El Salvador Park
- **Targeted Outreach (Nina Place & Wintersburg Channel)**
- **Pop-Ups, StoryMap, Multilingual Helpline, CBO Engagement**



OCTA – Orange County Transportation Authority  
RTP – Regional Transportation Planning

# Environmental Process

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA - Federal)**
  - Caltrans is the NEPA lead agency
  - Categorical exclusion – category of actions that individually or cumulatively have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment
  - NEPA approval must be completed before a federal grant agreement can be executed and funding can be obligated
  - Supported by technical studies
- **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA - State)**
  - OCTA is the CEQA lead agency
  - Public Resources Code Section 21080.25 - statutory exemption for sustainable transportation projects
  - Criteria: (1) local agency carries out project and is lead agency; (2) project would not add new auto capacity; and (3) project would not demolish affordable housing
  - Environmental documentation to be retained by OCTA
- **Submit a Written Comment**
  - Please use the form at [octa.net/OC Connect](https://octa.net/OC_Connect) to submit your comments. All feedback will be reviewed and considered
  - To receive a response, written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2024

# Environmental Process – Next Steps

- Solicit public and stakeholder input – fall 2024
- Analyze Phase II outreach results – winter 2024
- Complete design memo and environmental studies – winter 2024
- Finalize and file environmental documents – spring 2025

# Stay Connected

- **StoryMap:** [occonnect-storymap.com](https://occonnect-storymap.com)
- **Online Survey:** [bit.ly/OC-Connect-Survey](https://bit.ly/OC-Connect-Survey)
- **Project Helpline:** (800) 716-8518
- **Written Comment Form:** [octa.net/OCConnect](https://octa.net/OCConnect)

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**Scan the QR Code to  
take our survey!**

