

Meeting of Sept. 24, 2018

OCTA Awards \$220.5 million OC Streetcar Construction Contract

The OCTA board awarded a \$220.5 million contract to Walsh Construction Co. to build the OC Streetcar project.

Walsh Construction was selected among four construction firms that met pre-qualification requirements and submitted bids. The procurement was handled in accordance with the board's previously approved procedures for public works projects, which conform to federal and state requirements.

OCTA has been working closely throughout planning and design with the Federal Transit Administration, which is considering a full funding grant agreement that, along with other federal funding, would pay for about half of the project's cost. Because OCTA met all federal guidelines during the development of the project, FTA officials gave OCTA pre-award authority to move forward with the purchase of the vehicles and the construction contract.

The OC Streetcar will operate along a 4.1-mile route from the busy Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center, along Santa Ana Boulevard and Fourth Street and along the Pacific Electric right-of-way to Harbor Boulevard.

Construction of the OC Streetcar is set to begin later this year, with testing and operations beginning in 2021.

OCTA Offering \$25 million for Bikeway Projects

OCTA is looking to award up to \$25 million in grants for bicycle projects as part of its ongoing effort to provide residents access to alternative transportation and encourage them to bike to their destinations.

The Bicycle Corridor Improvement Project 2019 Call for Projects is a \$25 million bicycle program available to Orange County cities and the county. Funding for the program comes from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, which is a federal program that provides funding for transportation projects that help meet federal Clean Air Act requirements.

To date, the OCTA program has helped fund 38 projects for \$28.7 million projects around the county.

Project applications are due to OCTA on Nov. 15. The board is scheduled to vote on awarding the funds in March.

September Employees of the Month Honored

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for September.

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to:

- Mary Blum, Coach Operator
- Edwin Hernandez, Maintenance
- May O'Donnell, Administration