

Meeting of Sept. 14, 2015

OC Streetcar project designer selected

The Orange County Transportation Authority board of directors selected HNTB Corporation to design the OC Streetcar project, signaling the next major step in developing the county's first modern streetcar.

The OC Streetcar is planned to travel along a route just longer than 4 miles through the cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove. The project has received state and federal environmental clearance. Selecting a designer was the next step in advancing the project.

Design firm proposals were evaluated based on their qualifications, work plan and staffing and project organization. HNTB, a full-service design engineering firm, has worked on numerous streetcar and street-running light rail projects nationwide. The proposed project manager has worked on 12 streetcar projects in design management roles throughout the country.

On the current schedule, construction for the OC Streetcar would begin in 2017, with service beginning by 2020.

Congestion Management Program report available for public review

The board voted to release the draft 2015 Orange County Congestion Management Program report for a three-week public review period before its final adoption at a public hearing that is scheduled for Nov. 23.

OCTA is responsible for developing, monitoring and updating the report every two years. The Congestion Management Program is intended to provide a mechanism for coordinating land use and transportation decisions, and to manage traffic congestion by monitoring the transportation system.

In the baseline year data, 1991 in most cases, 14 intersections were operating over capacity in the morning and evening peak hours. Since then, congestion conditions have significantly improved at those intersections.

The draft report, developed through a cooperative effort between OCTA, local jurisdictions and Caltrans, will be circulated to local agencies for review. The report also will be available on the OCTA website. Any comments received will be incorporated into the final 2015 report, as appropriate.

OCTA exceeds standards on bus safety, courtesy and reliability

OCTA is on track with bus safety, courtesy and reliability, according to a transit division performance update presented to the board.

The report measured OCTA's contract and directly-operated fixed-route bus and ACCESS paratransit services through the end of the fourth quarter of the 2014-15 fiscal year. The quarterly report is intended to gauge the safety, reliability, cost effectiveness and overall quality of the services.

The transit services exceeded the accident frequency goals and customer service goals, along with most financial indicators. In addition, the on-time performance for the services was achieved or exceeded.

Engine and vehicle replacements are underway to address some reliability issues and a number of efforts are occurring to increase ridership. The efforts include implementing a new Bravo! and express service route in the next year.

Measure M continues to deliver on promises

The OCTA board received a Measure M progress report for the period of April through June.

Measure M is the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements that was approved by Orange County voters in 1990 and renewed in 2006.

Significant Measure M accomplishment in the quarter include:

- Caltrans approved the final environmental document and the final project report for the I-5 between SR-55 and SR-57 on April 8 and May 1, respectively.
- The Federal Transit Administration approved the OC Streetcar project to move into the project development phase of the federal New Starts Program on May 5.
- The board approved funding for the fifth round of the Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program April 13. Since 2011, 72 projects have been funded, totaling \$57.1 million.

Staff is currently working on a Measure M 10-year review that is anticipated to be brought to the board in October. A final 10-year report for the board's review is planned for November.