



Frequently Asked Questions

OC Streetcar Features

1. What is a streetcar?

A streetcar is a short train-like vehicle with metal wheels powered by electricity that operates alongside cars via rails embedded in the street, providing circulation within local neighborhoods. Streetcars differ from other light rail system vehicles, which are longer, travel faster and typically operate within a lane separate from streets, providing transportation between cities and/or suburban areas. The OC Streetcar will be a single car with an operator on board.

2. What does a streetcar do?

Streetcars provide local circulation in urban areas and share their right-of-way with automobiles, traveling with the flow of traffic. They follow all traffic signals and signage as other vehicles.

3. How do streetcars operate safely on local streets?

Modern streetcars move with the flow of traffic and allow passenger pick up and drop off at designated stops. Public outreach and pedestrian safety education programs will be offered to familiarize local residents and business owners with the new system.

4. How many people can a streetcar accommodate?

Streetcar passenger vehicles can typically accommodate up to 210 passengers.

5. How fast does a streetcar travel?

The speed of the OC Streetcar will vary depending upon the speed of traffic. The portion of the route that travels on the Pacific Electric right-of way between Raitt Street and Harbor/Westminster will have slightly higher speeds than the street-running locations.

6. How are streetcars powered?

Streetcars are typically powered by an overhead electrical power supply called a catenary system.



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7. How long will the OC Streetcar route be?

The route will be 4.15 miles in each direction.

8. How many stops will there be?

There will be 16 stops along the route with 10 stops in each direction. There are side platform stops that board passengers adjacent to the sidewalk and others that have a center platform that passengers board from the center.

9. How often will the streetcars run?

The streetcar will run every 10 to 15 minutes during operating hours.

10. How can I use my bicycle on the streetcar?

Bicycles will be allowed on the streetcar, either on bicycle racks or in designated areas inside the vehicles. Public outreach and bicycle safety education programs will be offered to familiarize bicyclists with the new system.

11. Will individuals with physical disabilities be able to ride the streetcar?

Yes, the OC Streetcar will be ADA compliant.

OC Streetcar Project Planning and Costs

1. Did the cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove select this particular route?

As part of OCGO, formally Measure M, all 34 cities in Orange County were given the opportunity to develop transit extensions to the Metrolink corridor. The cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove competed for and were awarded funds, through Measure M - Transit Extensions to Metrolink, for further development of a fixed guideway project that would broaden the reach of Metrolink to key destinations within their communities. The route was chosen by the Cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove as a result of a detailed alternatives analysis (AA) study that evaluated multiple routes and technologies. The locally preferred alternative (LPA), Streetcar Alternative 1, was selected by the Santa Ana City Council on August 5, 2014 and adopted on January 20, 2015. The City of Garden Grove also adopted a resolution approving the LPA on February 10, 2015.



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2. What does the alternatives analysis (AA) evaluation process include?

The AA includes (1) Preliminary Definition of Alternatives, (2) Initial Screening (Route Options), (3) Initial Screening (Technology Options), (4) Detailed Evaluation and Environmental Impact Analysis, and (5) Locally Preferred Alternative.

3. Was the community involved in the alternatives analysis (AA) evaluation process?

Significant public outreach was conducted at each phase of the study.

4. When was the alternatives analysis (AA) evaluation completed?

The AA was completed in April 2014.

5. How much will the OC Streetcar Project cost?

The estimated Capital cost is \$509 million (year of expenditure).

6. How much will it cost to ride the streetcar?

Streetcar fares will be similar to OCTA bus fares.

OC Streetcar Construction

1. How long will construction last?

Construction began in late 2018 and is anticipated to be complete in 2024. Work will be completed in segments along the project route and there will be periods when activities are occurring in all segments.

2. How can I find out about construction in my area?

The OC Streetcar outreach team distributes construction notices to community members and businesses prior to impactful construction activities, such as work that may require temporary full road closures or nighttime work. To stay up to date about general construction activities and traffic impacts along the project route, [sign up for the OC Streetcar bi-weekly Construction News e-blasts](#) or follow OC Streetcar on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @OCstreetcar.



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3. Will businesses be closed during construction?

No, access to businesses will be maintained during business operating hours and signage will be posted alerting nearby businesses of temporary closures and/or detours.

4. Are there resources available to help businesses during construction?

Yes, OCTA's Eat Shop Play program supports businesses located along the OC Streetcar route by offering marketing assistance to increase exposure and foot traffic during construction. Participation is free and highlights include social media and email marketing; print and digital ads; professional photography and videography; and coupon promotions. More information can be found on the [Eat Shop Play page](#) of the OC Streetcar website.

5. Will parking be impacted?

Some street parking will be impacted; however residential and business properties will maintain an on-site parking capacity that is consistent with local zoning and occupancy entitlements. Additionally, parking is free Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the first two hours free during evenings and weekends in City of Santa Ana-owned structures located downtown.

6. Will traffic be impacted?

During construction lane closures will be required; however, every effort will be made to minimize these concerns. Signs will also be posted to alert nearby residents and businesses of temporary lane reductions, weekend or nighttime closures, and/or detours.



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