

Meeting of May 22, 2020

Board Awards Contract to Operate and Maintain OC Streetcar

The OC Streetcar project reached another important milestone with the OCTA board approval of a \$45 million contract with Herzog Transit Services, Inc. for operations and maintenance of what will be Orange County's first modern electric streetcar system.

Construction continues in full swing on the OC Streetcar, which will run on a 4.1-mile route through Santa Ana and Garden Grove. It is scheduled to begin testing and operations in 2022.

Herzog Transit Services, based in Missouri, was selected as the top firm from among three qualified bidders. The contract includes a pre-revenue period of approximately 17 months, with an initial five-year revenue-operations term and two, two-year options.

The OC Streetcar route will serve Santa Ana's thriving downtown and dense employment areas that include county and local government offices and courthouses in the Civic Center. The streetcar will carry passengers between the busy Santa Ana transit center and a transit stop at Harbor Boulevard and Westminster Avenue in Garden Grove, running along Santa Ana Boulevard, Fourth Street and the Pacific Electric right-of-way and connecting with OCTA's busiest bus routes.

For more information on the project, visit www.OCStreetcar.com.

Service Changes Coming to OC Bus on June 14

The OCTA board approved service changes to the OC Bus system that will go into effect on Sunday, June 14.

The changes focus on transitioning to Saturday service levels while increasing the frequency on high-demand routes and restoring service on some routes that were suspended in March. The changes strike a balance between anticipated increased customer demand, social distancing and coach operator availability.

Bus service changes are routinely made three times a year in February, June and October to ensure riders are getting the most efficient level of service. In March, OCTA implemented an emergency service change which temporarily reduced service to Sunday service levels to comply with the Governor's stay-at-home order and help protect the health of OCTA employees while continuing to provide critical service for those needing to make essential trips.

OCTA has made several changes to the OC Bus system to ensure the health and safety of passengers and employees during the coronavirus pandemic, including enhanced nightly bus cleaning, implementing rear-door passenger boarding, limiting the number of passengers on board each bus when possible, adding signages to bus seats reminding passengers to practice social distancing and adding service on busier routes to accommodate fewer passengers on each bus. OCTA has also installed hand sanitizer

dispensers near the rear doors of every OC Bus for passenger use and is asking passengers to wear face coverings while riding OC Bus.

For more information, visit [OCBus.com](https://ocbus.com).

Construction Progresses on I-405 Improvements

The OCTA board received an update on the I-405 Improvement Project, which is in its second year of construction.

The \$1.9 billion I-405 Improvement Project will add one regular lane in each direction between Euclid Street and I-605, and a second lane in each direction in the center of the freeway from SR-73 to I-605 that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes. In addition, 18 bridges will be built, widened or replaced as part of the project, which will speed up travel times on I-405 between Costa Mesa and the Los Angeles County line.

The project's final design is substantially complete and significant construction, including installation of drainage systems, retaining and sound walls and paving operations, are underway.

Construction continues on the Bushard Street, Talbert Avenue and McFadden Avenue overcrossings, which fully closed to traffic to be demolished and rebuilt as part of the project. McFadden is expected to be open late this summer, Bushard is anticipated to open late this year and Talbert is scheduled for completion early next year.

Significant bridge construction also continues at Fairview Road, Magnolia Street, Goldenwest Street, Westminster Boulevard and Bolsa Chica Road. These bridges are reconstructed one half at a time, meaning they are open to traffic during construction. The first half of the Magnolia Street bridge was completed in late March and construction on the second half began immediately after. The first half of the other bridges are expected to open to traffic by the end of the year.

OCTA has been working closely with its partners and contractor to mitigate any schedule delays. Recently, these efforts have included implementing extended overnight and daytime freeway lane closures to take advantage of significantly reduced traffic volumes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past few months, OCTA's public outreach team has also shifted strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with most outreach being conducted electronically, including hosting virtual neighborhood meetings to update residents about nearby construction.

For more information about the I-405 Improvement Project, visit octa.net/405improvement.