

Meeting of April 25, 2022

Board Selects Consultant for South Orange County Rail Station Feasibility Study

OCTA's board approved the selection of HDR Engineering, Inc. as the firm to conduct a feasibility study for a new passenger rail station in south Orange County.

The South Orange County Rail Station Feasibility Study will evaluate the possible need for a new rail station between the existing Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Metrolink station and the San Clemente Metrolink station, which are more than 10 miles apart.

The study will be prepared in consultation with Metrolink, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor (LOSSAN) Agency and cities within the project area.

The first phase of the project will focus on building a consensus among area stakeholders, identifying local and regional benefits, as well as potential obstacles and constraints, and establishing criteria to select a new station location.

If a new rail station is determined to be the preferred option, OCTA may direct the consultant to proceed with the second phase of the project, which will include developing a conceptual plan, a preliminary environmental analysis and a final project definition report.

OCTA Selects Community Outreach Consultant for OC Streetcar Project

The OCTA board has approved the selection of Katz & Associates, Inc. as the firm to continue providing community outreach services for the OC Streetcar project.

The OC Streetcar will be Orange County's first modern electric streetcar, running along a 4-mile route between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove. The project will provide an additional affordable and convenient transit option, connecting with the busiest OC Bus routes and Metrolink commuter rail, in one of the nation's most densely populated areas, while producing zero emissions.

The OC Streetcar project's public awareness campaign aids OCTA's efforts to communicate to a broad and diverse audience about the project's benefits and construction updates as the project progresses. Current outreach activities include meeting with residents and businesses throughout the project area, hosting community and civic organization presentations, publishing updates on social media and traditional media, and installing project-branded signage.

The OC Streetcar is expected to begin operating in 2024.

Board Recognizes April Employees of the Month

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

The honors went to:

- Linda Johnson, a coach operator at the Garden Grove base who started at OCTA in April 2019. Linda recently received three customer compliments that reflect her consistent demonstration of OCTA's core values.
- Jose Estrada, a member of the service crew at the Santa Ana base who started his career at OCTA in December 2019. Jose is a dedicated employee who has covered multiple assignments over the past year due to service worker shortages and typically services 18 buses per night, three more than the average.
- Joel Zlotnik, OCTA's Communications Manager, joined the agency in April 2007. In addition to leading the Public Information Office and serving as OCTA's primary spokesperson, Joel provides the CEO, Board and staff with strategic communications support.