REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE:
JANUARY 21, 2020

TITLE:
ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXTENSIONS OF THE OC STREETCAR (NONGENERAL FUND) {STRATEGIC PLAN NOS. 3, 2C, 4B; 6, 1G}

/s/ Kristine Ridge
CITY MANAGER

RECOMMENDED ACTION
Adopt a resolution supporting the extensions of the OC Streetcar north on Harbor Boulevard to the Anaheim Resort Area and the Platinum Triangle, and south on Bristol Street with connections to the John Wayne Airport.

DISCUSSION
Since 2008, the cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove have worked collaboratively with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) on the OC Streetcar (Project). The Project will extend the reach of Metrolink rail service by constructing a streetcar that will provide connectivity between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center, through downtown Santa Ana, and ultimately to a new transportation hub near Harbor Boulevard and Westminster Avenue in the cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove. With Harbor Boulevard being a critical public transportation corridor, consisting of the busiest bus corridor in the county, there is clearly an opportunity to implement a high-quality and high-capacity transit alternative. Additionally, the OC Streetcar Project will greatly benefit commuters throughout the county who work in historic Downtown Santa Ana and Civic Center, one of the largest employment centers in Orange County.

The OC Streetcar is on track to begin operations in 2022. With nearly 30 percent of Orange County’s population and over 25 percent of the County’s jobs located in the cities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Anaheim, an extension of the OC Streetcar route north from the Harbor/Westminster Hub would efficiently support job centers in these three cities, as well as help to alleviate worsening traffic conditions.

In 2018, OCTA, in collaboration with the cities of Santa Ana, Anaheim, Garden Grove, and Fullerton, completed the Central Harbor Boulevard Transit Corridor Study. The study included several northerly extension options, one of which included a terminus near Katella Avenue. Given the completed transit study and the alternatives that were evaluated, an environmental study for an extension project in this corridor is a logical next step. The recommended Resolution (Exhibit 1) demonstrates City Council support to extend the OC Streetcar Project to the Anaheim Resort and advance the environmental study into the next phase.

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Additionally, OCTA is collaborating with the cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach and Irvine for the Bristol Street Transit Corridor Study. This study is looking at transit options along the Bristol Street corridor with connections to the John Wayne Airport. The recommended Resolution also demonstrates City Council support to extend the OC Streetcar Project to John Wayne Airport with the completion of the current study and environmental study in the next phase.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**
Approval of this item supports the City’s efforts to meet the following Strategic Plan Goals:

1. **Goal #3 – Economic Development, Objective #2** (create new opportunities for business/job growth and encourage private development through new General Plan and Zoning Ordinance policies), Strategy C (support business development and job growth along transit corridors through the completion of critical transit plans/projects including: The Fixed Guideway Project, Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center Master Plan, Complete Streets and General Plan Circulation Element update).

2. **Goal #3 – Economic Development, Objective #4** (continue to pursue objectives that shape downtown Santa Ana into a thriving, culturally diverse, shopping, dining, and entertainment destination), Strategy B (create a comprehensive program to manage parking that includes innovative strategies to provide parking, create revenue and enhance accessibility in the downtown).

3. **Goal #6 – Community Facilities & Infrastructure, Objective #1** (establish and maintain a Community Investment Plan for all City assets), Strategy G (develop and implement the City’s Capital Improvement Program in coordination with the Community Investment and Deferred Maintenance Plans; [e.g., transit vision, street car, fixed guideway project, SARTC master plan, Bristol Street widening, neighborhood streets, traffic improvements, park facilities, sport fields, soccer fields, senior centers, bike master plan, etc.]).

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**
There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

**FISCAL IMPACT**
There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Nabil Saba, PE
Acting Executive Director
Public Works Agency

NS/EWG/JG/ST/HG

Exhibit:  1. Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ANA IN SUPPORT OF EXTENSIONS OF THE OC STREETCAR

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ANA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Santa Ana hereby finds, determines and declares as follows:

A. Nearly 30 percent of Orange County's population reside in the Cities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Anaheim ("Cities"), and over 25 percent of Orange County jobs are in the Cities.

B. Increasing population and employment growth in the region and Orange County emphasize the critical need to improve infrastructure and expand travel options.

C. Better access to jobs offers new opportunities for residents to continue to live, work, and thrive in Orange County.

D. The Cities strongly desire to improve access to jobs in central Orange County by strengthening public transportation systems.

E. Harbor Boulevard and Bristol Street are critical public transportation corridors used by residents and workers for access to jobs and schools throughout central Orange County.

F. The Orange County Transportation Authority ("OCTA") will soon complete the OC Streetcar that will extend the reach of Metrolink service by connecting the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center to a new transportation hub near Harbor Boulevard and Westminster Avenue in the Cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove.

G. The OC Streetcar will greatly benefit commuters throughout the county who work in historic downtown Santa Ana and Civic Center, one of the largest employment centers in Orange County.

H. OCTA completed a study in 2018 that considered, among other options, extending the OC Streetcar north on Harbor Boulevard to the Anaheim Resort area to connect to job centers in Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Anaheim.
OCTA is conducting a study that is considering, among other options, extending the OC Streetcar south on Bristol Street to the John Wayne Airport area to connect to job centers in Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach and Irvine.

The Cities believe an OC Streetcar extension to the Anaheim Resort area should move forward as expeditiously as possible to provide community benefits, improve public transportation services, and capture future state and federal funds for project implementation.

Santa Ana also believes an OC Streetcar extension to the John Wayne Airport should move forward as expeditiously as possible to provide community benefits, improve public transportation services, and capture future state and federal funds for project implementation.

Section 2. Based upon the above referenced recitals, and all details specified in the accompanying Request for Council Action, and each of them, the City of Santa Ana hereby supports extensions of the OC Streetcar, and requests that OCTA provide funding to advance appropriate project development efforts for OC Streetcar extensions to the Anaheim Resort and John Wayne Airport areas.

Section 3. Additionally, the City of Santa Ana is committed to complementary street improvements and land uses that will further strengthen potential ridership and state/federal funding opportunities for OC Streetcar extensions.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the Clerk of the Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this Resolution.

ADOPTED this _____ day of ____________, 2020.

Miguel A. Pulido
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Sonia R. Carvalho
City Attorney

By: __________________________
Ryan O. Hodge
Assistant City Attorney

Resolution No. 2020-___

55A-4
AYES: Councilmembers ____________________________

NOES: Councilmembers ____________________________

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers ____________________________

NOT PRESENT: Councilmembers ____________________________

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTATION AND ORIGINALITY

I, Daisy Gomez, Clerk of the Council, do hereby attest to and certify the attached Resolution No. 2020-____ to be the original resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Santa Ana on January 21, 2020.

Date: ________________  

Clerk of the Council  

City of Santa Ana