

# Orange Line Trolley work to last to summer 2018



Upgrades to the Orange Line Trolley that runs from El Cajon to downtown San Diego will begin Monday and continue to next summer, but is not expected to disrupt service because the work will be done at night. (File photo)

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**C**rews will begin a months-long upgrade to the Orange Line Trolley that runs from [El Cajon](#) to downtown San Diego on Monday, but service will not be disrupted.

The work is scheduled for midnight through 4 a.m. Sundays through Thursday and will involve replacing the 32-year-old overhead wires known as the catenary assembly — cantilever arms, brackets, and pulleys — and adjusting the overhead electrical lines that power the Trolley.

Once completed next summer, the upgrade should give passengers who travel from the El Cajon Transit Center to downtown a more reliable ride by greatly reducing the chance that service will be interrupted by a train failure, according to a release from the San Diego Association of Governments.

SANDAG also noted that the work is being done as a proactive measure rather than in response to an issue that could disrupt ridership.

Crews will work along the Orange Line Trolley tracks, beginning from 16th and Commercial streets in downtown San Diego and continuing east through the El Cajon Transit Center on South Marshall Avenue. Crews will be in each area for approximately four nights.

Some preparatory work may occur at the Spring Street Trolley Station construction staging area beginning at 9 p.m. each night. Residents may notice the presence of crews, work lights, and vehicle safety back-up alarms during construction.

The Orange Line Overhead Contact System Improvements Project is a joint effort of the SANDAG and the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. The overhead contact system was originally installed in 1985.

The 18-mile line was the second in the San Diego Trolley system when it opened in March 1986. It initially ran only from downtown San Diego to Euclid Avenue, but was extended several times.

In July, the Orange Line was realigned to terminate at America Plaza instead of Santa Fe Depot. In August, MTS began work on the Courthouse Station, which will be the Orange Line's new western terminus when it opens early next year.

The new Courthouse Station will be on the south side of C Street between State and Union streets, adjacent to the new 22-story State Superior Court building. Tracks will be closed between City College Station and America Plaza on Oct. 28 and 29 because of the construction.

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