



# TRANSIT ON THE MOVE

A Major Transit Investment Study For Tucson

It's an exciting new year for the Modern Streetcar project with these key developments related to Federal approvals, project funding, and preliminary engineering progress:

► **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Approval Means Funding:** In December, 2008 the FTA approved the Tucson Department of Transportation's request to initiate Preliminary Engineering of the Modern Streetcar Project as a New Starts 'exempt' project. That green light from the U.S. Department of Transportation for this 'exempt' category means that we can maintain an aggressive schedule, be eligible for federal funding, and access local funding to develop the modern streetcar. The proposed 3.9 mile Modern Streetcar route, with an east terminus at Helen Street and Campbell Avenue and a west terminus at Avenida de Convento and Congress Street, was selected as the locally preferred alternative in April 2007.

► **Environmental Approval:** The second, 30-day review and public comment period on the Modern Streetcar Environmental Assessment study closed in mid-January. The FTA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) document on January 22, 2009, meaning that after extensive public and agency feedback, analysis, and mitigation measures, the FTA found that there are no significant environment impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed Modern Streetcar project. You can find a copy of the FONSI document at [www.tucsontransitstudy.com](http://www.tucsontransitstudy.com), [www.dot.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.dot.tucsonaz.gov), and [www.rtamobility.com](http://www.rtamobility.com).

The City has prepared a request for FTA approval to enter Final Design, which is the last step of project development before the FTA grants approval for project construction.

► **Focus on Engineering Design and Procurement Activities:** Initially, the Project Team will be focusing on preliminary engineering activities, including completing design and specifications of rail and streetcar, utility relocations, land acquisition and more. Preliminary program elements are being developed for station designs and the maintenance and storage facility.

► **City to Select Streetcar Manufacturer:** The Project Team will select a streetcar manufacturer by March. Subsequent steps will include completing contract negotiations with the selected streetcar manufacturer. The procurement is for seven electric rail vehicles designed to operate in both directions. The design allows for easy maneuvering through the tight turns along the route.

► **Two easy website options:** Now you can click on two website addresses to find out more Modern Streetcar project information: [www.tucsonstreetcar.info](http://www.tucsonstreetcar.info) and [www.tucsontransitstudy.com](http://www.tucsontransitstudy.com). The project team recently purchased the Tucson Streetcar domain name.

The Modern Streetcar Project is moving forward. Community Liaison Group (CLG) members and interested participants, please mark you calendar for the next meeting:

- **Community Liaison Group meeting**
- Thursday, **March 12, 2009 at 5:30 PM**
- University Service Annex Building (**USA Bldg**), 220 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. West building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. Parking available on the west side.
- Meeting materials will be available in the coming weeks.

In the coming months, the CLG will be providing input on station and stop design amenities, the streetcar interior, accessibility, and the maintenance facility exterior design. We look forward to working with you.

Shellie Ginn