



Thank you for your participation in the City of Tucson Major Transit Investment Study. Here is a progress report on the project:

Environmental Assessment in Review: The final Environmental Assessment was sent to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on February 29, 2008 for review and comment. The **next step is for the FTA to review the document and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**. The FONSI will conclude the environmental documentation phase for the modern streetcar project.

Small Starts Response Progress: The project team submitted a Small Starts Administrative Draft to FTA on January 18, 2008. Comments were received back from the FTA at the end of February 2008. The focus of the **FTA's comments was around travel forecasting and the relationship to the FTA Small Starts' funding criteria**. We will continue to work with the FTA to respond to comments and to provide additional information concerning travel forecasting.

Preliminary Engineering Begins: Conceptual engineering concluded with the cost estimate submittal to the FTA on January 2008. With that, **the project has now officially proceeded to the preliminary engineering phase**. A series of stakeholder meetings have been held with Fourth Avenue Merchants, Downtown Development Office, and the University of Arizona. The modern streetcar project team is also actively coordinating with other design teams in the area -- the Tucson Origins Heritage Park and the 4th Ave. Underpass.

Preliminary Engineering Recommendations: Based on feedback from the design teams, the following changes are recommended during the preliminary engineering phase:

- ▶ The streetcar **station stop on Cushing Street west of I-10 was no longer feasible** due to the geometric constraints of Cushing Street crossing over the Santa Cruz River.
- ▶ The streetcar **station stops on 4th Avenue near University Boulevard have been shifted to better accommodate neighborhood access and operation** during the semi-annual Fourth Avenue Street Fair. The previous station on 4th Avenue at University Boulevard is now shifted to between 4th and 5th Streets; and the previous station on University Boulevard near 2nd Avenue is shifted to 3rd Avenue.
- ▶ Through coordination with UA and Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT), it was determined that **the Cherry Avenue streetcar station at Helen is redundant** – its primary purpose was to provide a Sun Tran transfer point to bus service on Speedway. However, with the introduction of a Warren Avenue station on Helen, and the location of the Speedway bus stop on top of the Warren Avenue Tunnel, we determined that the bus connection could easily be made by using the Warren Avenue station. By eliminating the Cherry/Helen station, travel time is improved.

The project team is continuing to work on the 30% design plans for the modern streetcar project. TDOT will review the plans this summer.

We anticipate the **next CLG meeting will be held after resolving the FTA's comments about the Small Starts submittal and a FONSI is issued** to complete the environmental documentation.

Again, thank you for your participation in the modern streetcar project.

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