

Public Notice

A public hearing will be held by the Spokane Transit Board of Directors to receive public testimony on a recommended locally preferred alternative for high performance transit in the Central City at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in the Council Chambers, City of Spokane, 808 West Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Washington, 99201.

Spokane Transit Authority Central City High Performance Transit - Locally Preferred Alternative

On June 26, 2009 the Spokane City Council approved resolution 09-46 designating STA as the grantee of a Federal Transit Section 5339 alternatives analysis grant and authorizing the City's participation in a planning effort that had been described theretofore as the "Spokane Streetcar Study." Following the resolution Spokane Transit and the City of Spokane convened a group of core stakeholders who participated in the development of the project scope and objectives. This group supported Spokane Transit in selecting a consultant team to lead the planning effort for the project that, beginning late 2009, was referred to as the Downtown Transit Alternatives Analysis. The analysis was to evaluate the application of various mode options and corridor options to serve downtown and adjacent neighborhoods with the goals to increase transit ridership and system connectivity; positively influence downtown development and urban character; and, to support broad environmental goals while optimizing financial resources.

In addition to the participation of the Core Stakeholders, the City of Spokane and Spokane Transit convened a Sounding Board made up of community members who have an interest in downtown, adjacent neighborhoods and public transportation. This group met multiple times between April 2010 and June 2011 in an advisory capacity. Their advisory input included changing the project name to represent the broader study area now known as the Central City. Input from the Sounding Board helped support public outreach efforts highlighted by three public open houses and a broad outreach effort focused on Central City property owners and business leaders.

The Core Stakeholders have unanimously agreed to move forward a recommendation to the Spokane Transit Board and Spokane City Council for High Performance Transit (HPT) using Modern Electric Trolley (MET) vehicles on a general alignment extending from Browne's Addition to Gonzaga University via downtown Spokane and the WSU-Spokane Campus at Riverpoint. MET vehicles are high capacity, rubber-tired electric vehicles with the primary energy source transmitted by a fixed guideway, overhead catenary system extending the entire length of the alignment as practicable. The recommendation to adopt this locally preferred alternative (LPA) is based on the consistency of the mode and alignment with the project's purpose and need, broad public support for the mode, and the cost effectiveness of the mode when compared to other options that successfully address the project purpose and need. The adoption of the LPA does not commit any party for funding of the project at this time and does not represent an environmental determination on the project.

Materials on the Central City Transit Alternatives Analysis (CCTAA) project can be found online at www.connectspokane.org, including copies of public presentations, project studies and reports and information on outreach efforts

Written comments on the **Central City High Performance Transit - Locally Preferred Alternative** should be sent to: Molly Myers, Communications Manager, Spokane Transit Authority, 1230 W Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99201 no later than Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Upon request, alternative formats of this document will be produced for people with disabilities. The facility is accessible for people who use wheelchairs. For these and other accommodations, please call 325-6094 or TTY (509) 232-6555 or email smillbank@spokanetransit.com at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.