

Central City Line Past Project Updates

Project Update July 2014

On July 24th, 2014, the STA Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to receive feedback on two possible amendments to the Central City Line's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The first amendment would be a possible extension of the line beyond Gonzaga University to serve Spokane Community College, via Cincinnati Street and Mission Avenue. The second amendment would be to explore electric vehicle propulsion technologies for the Modern Electric Trolley preferred mode that do not rely on the overhead catenary wire system. Please review the staff recommendation memo for more information on the LPA refinement. The public is encouraged to attend the hearing on July 24th and provide feedback on the project to the STA Board. The Board could consider taking action on amending the LPA once the public hearing has closed, and this action could be as soon as July 24th. The economic impact study is in. Look for it in the Supportive Materials.

Project Update (August 2015)

In the Summer of 2014, STA Board of Directors and the Spokane City Council approved resolutions amending the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) to extend the alignment/route of the Central City Line (CCL) beyond Gonzaga University, to Spokane Community College and to explore additional electric propulsion technology options that may include inductive charging and battery storage options. The total length of the CCL is now approximately six (6) miles. The STA Board also authorized the CEO to submit a request to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to enter into Project Development which allows STA to use awarded grant funds to begin the preliminary engineering and environmental review tasks for the project.

On October 3, 2014, STA submitted a written request to FTA to enter into the project development phase of the Small Starts program and on June 30, 2015, the FTA approved STA's request. STA has begun working with an engineering consultant to prepare a work program to complete the necessary engineering and environmental work in preparation for submittal of a Small Starts Grant request for the remaining funding for the project. It is anticipated that the grant request will be submitted in the summer of 2016 with preliminary engineering completed to approximately 30% design will be completed in the winter of 2016.