

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.

Project Update (October 2015)

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.

On September 17 and 21, respectively, the STA Board of Directors and the Spokane City Council approved a joint resolution creating a Steering Committee for the purposes of establishing a collaborative process for the project development, and land use and economic development policy planning phases of the CCL. The Steering Committee is charged with providing policy-level advisory input

and direction to the STA Board, the City of Spokane and their respective staff members at key decision points in the implementation of the Central City Line and supportive land use and economic development policies.

On September 29, a project kick off meeting was held with a number of stakeholders and technical staff. Following the meeting, the group toured the proposed alignments to identify issues and opportunities throughout the route.

Project Development Update (December 2018)

STA is currently working toward completing 60% design for CCL stations and will review the more advanced design with the community in February 2019. Community feedback received during an online open house in winter 2018 is helping the project team refine station design and move the project forward.

STA is now partnering with Spokane Arts to document feedback from residents, businesses, universities, and other agencies on what is important to the character of the area around each station. STA will ask for input on elements that enhance the station “identification,” which could include graphics, art, photos, glass etching, or other features at stations that reflect the unique neighborhoods along the CCL.

The City of Spokane plans to rebuild Riverside Avenue between Howard and Division streets in advance of the Central City Line. STA is working with the City to identify street design possibilities and align them with community values and the CCL. Based on feedback from businesses, property owners and other stakeholders, the City will plan for curbside “island” CCL stations that allow bicycle lanes to pass between the station and the curb and three vehicle lanes.

At the federal level, the president signed the omnibus spending bill for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 earlier this year, which included \$400 million for “Small Starts” transit projects. This is an encouraging sign that Small Starts projects like the CCL will continue to receive funding in future budget cycles. The CCL project is currently seeking funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 which begins on October 1, 2018.

Other recent CCL work includes:

- Working with the City of Spokane on the Greenway Trail project along Cincinnati Street, as well as street designs for Wall and Maples Streets.
- Collaborating with Gonzaga University on stations and design of Cincinnati Street to accommodate the CCL.
- Finalizing station amenities based on public and stakeholder feedback and starting soon on architectural design.
- Submitted application for station designs to the Spokane Design Review Board.
- Held a Service Provider Roundtable meeting to discuss the project with social service providers.
- Working through the federal environmental approval process and submitting a final package of materials to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in May.

- Met with regional and Washington D.C.-based FTA officials to provide updates on the CCL and gather feedback.