

Economic Development, Lake, Downtown and Advanced Transportation Infrastructure Committee Meeting of February 19, 2013

Issue

Provide an update and review on the status of the Tempe Streetcar Project, including employment/population data, and possible route reconfigurations that would maximize the potential for federal funding support.

Background:

At the December 13, 2012 Issue Review Session, the Tempe City Council supported a recommendation by Metro and City staff to continue working with the Federal Transit Administration to explore possible changes to the Locally Preferred Alternative streetcar route (adopted Sept. 2011) to preserve federal funding opportunities. With the new Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) federal transportation legislation, new criteria and processes have been established for projects like the Tempe Streetcar. To better compete for MAP-21 funds (i.e. Small Starts grants) staff and Metro have been developing and reviewing employment and residential density data, as well as project cost effectiveness, local financial commitments, and the economic development potential of different parts of downtown Tempe, including the Apache Blvd. and Rio Salado areas. This data is being used to help determine the best performing ridership numbers, as well as current and future development potential for different streetcar alignments. Staff and Metro will be presenting this information for direction, along with seeking direction for public involvement, from the City Council on March 7, 2013.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact.

Short-term Guidance Needed

Provide feedback to Metro and City staff regarding Tempe data, route alignments, and public outreach information in preparation for the City Council meeting on March 7, 2013.

Sources

Eric Iwersen – 350-8810

Greg Jordan – 858-2094

Sue Taaffe – 350-8663

Attachments

A – Metro Presentation