

MEMORANDUM



Public Works Department

Date: August 2, 2016

To: Tempe City Council

From: Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner (350-8810)

Thru: Don Bessler, Public Works Director (350-8205)
Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director – Transportation (350-8854)

Subject: Streetcar Update
August 11, 2016 Issue Review Session

PURPOSE

The purpose of the August 11 presentation is to provide an update on the status of the Tempe Streetcar Project and introduce upcoming efforts and critical decisions related to project development. Tempe and Valley Metro staff will be present, as will the Interim Valley Metro CEO Scott Smith, to address the Council and respond to any questions.

BACKGROUND

As Council is aware the Tempe Streetcar Project is a three mile urban circulator rail transportation technology with fourteen stops, six vehicles and two connections to light rail. The project will connect Tempe Town Lake and the development of Rio Salado, through the downtown core, linking ASU and Tempe’s most historic neighborhoods. Over the summer and late spring staff and Valley Metro have been working on many items to advance the development of the Streetcar. In February 2016 the Streetcar Small Starts Grant Request of \$75 million was included in President Obama’s budget and months earlier the project received a rating of “medium-high” (a positive rating).



Small Starts Grant Agreement & Correspondence with the Federal Transit Administration

The SSGA is the next required step to secure the \$75 million Smalls Starts Grant request from the Federal Transit Administration to fully fund the project. A final signed SSGA is anticipated in fall 2017. Staff continues to coordinate directly with the FTA to meet all “roadmap” steps needed for the grant. Additionally, President Obama’s FY 17 budget continues to move through the Congressional cycle. The Tempe lobbyist efforts are also contributing to successful final inclusion of the project in the fiscal year 17 budget. With the recent passage of the FAST Act (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act) the Streetcar must also be re-submitted (initial submittal request was fall 2015) by September 2, 2016 since we do not have a signed SSGA. This is the same for several other cities (Sacramento, Ft Lauderdale) advancing streetcars but not yet having a signed SSGA. Staff continues to meet with the monthly Project Management Oversight Consultant (PMOC) hired by FTA to review status of the project. Staff also meets quarterly with representatives from FTA.

Preliminary Engineering

Staff is nearly complete with all preliminary engineering for the project which includes track location, specific stop and platform sites, and utility and right of way needs identification. The project is continuing to work closely with ASU and other stakeholders. The preliminary engineering information will be used to share with the public and serve as the baseline information for the formal design team and contractors that will take the project into final design and construction.

Vehicle Procurement

The longest time element of the project, the vehicle procurement has been advancing since spring. In May, the Request For Proposals was released for six vehicles. The length of vehicles that can be submitted was 65-82 feet and wireless options with a battery technology were encouraged. The two wireless portions that the RFQ allows for consideration and proposal are: Mill Avenue, from University Drive to Rio Salado Parkway, and Ash Avenue from Rio Salado Parkway to University Drive. The consultant team Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) will continue to be active as a reviewer of the technical information provided by all respondents to the RFP. Proposals are due on September 14, 2016. Valley Metro and Tempe staff will begin negotiations with one firm by late September, but final award will happen in roughly March, 2017.

Upcoming Procurement Contracts and Other Project Efforts

As the Streetcar moves into formal design and construction the following contract teams will need to be retained through competitive procurement.

Upcoming Procurements



Contract	Release Date	Response Date
Final Design (RFQ)	August 4, 2016	September 22, 2016
Construction Manager at Risk (RFQ)	August 8, 2016	September 26, 2016
Public Art (RFQ)	August 15, 2016	October 20, 2016
Construction Manager at Risk (RFP)	October 28, 2016	December 16, 2016

In addition to these four procurements, staff will be coming back to Council and the community for a discussion and direction on vehicle branding, system branding and other aesthetic decisions. Staff will be reporting back to the Council on these procurements, but ultimately they will go through the Valley Metro Board for approvals.

Public Art

As part of design of the project, public art elements will be developed for each of the fourteen stops. Four public artists are proposed to be hired, assigned to one of the design zones. The Regional Rail Advisory Committee, Tempe and Valley Metro staff will oversee the public art process. The Tempe Arts Commission, Transportation Commission and four distinct stakeholder teams will guide the development of the artworks to be reflective of the character of each zone. The art elements will be critical to capturing sense of place, a unique system identity and achieve important community support. Artists will work directly with all stakeholders and through community meetings. The budget for each stop is set at \$52,500 and artists will be working closely with the final design team.



Four public art and design zones

Public Outreach & Next Steps

Over the summer staff has participated in several Character Area “Meet-ups”, and a Downtown Tempe Authority merchants meeting. Additionally there have been a few Marina Heights, Hayden Ferry Lakeside and ASU meetings, and two postcard deliveries to all alignment addresses to alert them of the project and survey work. Staff will host an open house for the entire community on October 26 in the Cassano Room of the Transportation Center that will be advertised in Tempe Today and via postcard to the route alignment.

ATTACHMENTS

- PowerPoint