

# MEMORANDUM



## Public Works Department

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**Date:** December 5, 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  
December 15, 2016 Issue Review Session

### SUBJECT

Tempe Streetcar Update

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo and PowerPoint is to provide an update on the status of the Tempe Streetcar Project and introduce upcoming efforts and critical decisions related to project development.

### BACKGROUND & PROJECT STATUS

The Tempe Streetcar Project is a 3-mile urban circulator rail transportation technology with 14 stops, six vehicles and two connections to light rail. The project will connect Tempe Town Lake, Rio Salado corridor, downtown Tempe, Arizona State University and Tempe's oldest neighborhoods. In February 2016, the Streetcar Small Starts Grant Request of \$75 million was included in President Obama's budget, and months earlier (late 2015) the project received a rating of "medium-high" (a positive rating) from the Federal Transit Administration.



### **Small Starts Grant Agreement & Correspondence with the Federal Transit Administration**

The SSGA is the next required step to secure the \$75 million Small 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 and Valley Metro to meet all “roadmap” steps needed for the grant. The Tempe lobbyist efforts are also contributing to successful inclusion of the project in the fiscal year 17 budget. With passage of the FAST Act (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act), the Tempe Streetcar was re-submitted in September 2016 (initial submittal request was fall 2015), along with other cities advancing streetcar projects not yet having signed SSGAs (Sacramento, Fort Lauderdale). In addition to quarterly meetings with representatives from FTA, staff continues to meet monthly with the Project Management Oversight Consultant (PMOC) hired by FTA to review status of the project.

### **Preliminary Engineering**

Preliminary engineering for the project has been completed, including track location, specific stop and platform sites, and utility and right-of-way needs identification. The project team continues to work closely with stakeholders, using this preliminary engineering information to share with the public and serve as the baseline for the formal design team and contractors that will take the project into final design and construction.

### **Vehicle Procurement**

Procurement of the streetcar vehicles continues to advance; proposals are being reviewed by city and Valley Metro staff, as well as technical review by the consultant team CTE (Center For Transportation and the Environment). In May, the Request For Proposals was released for six vehicles. The RFP limited vehicle length to 65-82 feet, and wireless options with a battery technology were encouraged. The two wireless portions that the RFP 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. Three submittals were received from potential manufacturers in late September, and all three include both wireless portions. Valley Metro and Tempe staff are working toward negotiations with a single vendor. It is anticipated that a single preferred vendor would be selected by mid-December with a Best and Final Offer recommendation from the Valley Metro Rail Board in February 2017.

### **Design and Construction Procurements**

A formal design team and a Construction Manager at Risk are currently in procurement and are expected to be on contract by the end of December and January, respectively.

### **Public Art**

Four stakeholder panels, one for each Streetcar zone, were convened during October to select artists to develop public art for the 14 stops along the route. The selection panels (comprised of residents, business/property owners, Arizona State University and other community organizations) reviewed more than 600 samples of work from 56 applicants, and each panel selected an artist/team for their respective zone. The four artists/teams below were approved by the Valley Metro Rail Board in November:

- Zone 1 – Rio Salado                      Koryn Rolstad (Seattle)
- Zone 2 – Downtown                      Simon Donovan and Ben Olmstead (Tucson)
- Zone 3 – Gammage Curve                Mary Lucking (Phoenix)
- Zone 4 – Apache Blvd                    Bobby Zokaites (Tempe)

A public meeting was held on Dec. 5 to introduce the artists to the public and provide an opportunity for people to interact with artists and project staff. The artists will continue working with the stakeholder panels, also referred to as the Streetcar Art Review Committee (SARC), to develop art that reflects the character of the community. The installations will be critical to capturing sense of place, creating unique

system identity and garnering community support for the project. The artists will work closely with the final design team, while the Regional Rail Advisory Committee, Tempe and Valley Metro staff will oversee the process. The budget for each stop is set at \$52,500.



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**Public Outreach & Next Steps**

Efforts to inform and include the public in project updates continue to expand as staff meets with stakeholders, including character area neighborhood meetups, DTA merchants, Marina Heights, Hayden Ferry Lakeside and ASU.

The City of Tempe and Valley Metro hosted a public meeting for the project on Oct. 26. The meeting was promoted widely by Tempe Today, postcard/doorhangers, downtown distribution, news release and social media, with pre-meeting coverage by newspaper, radio and TV news outlets. Valley Metro and Tempe staff presented a project summary, including goals, milestones, projected dates and preliminary artwork related to the streetscape design and function. Following the presentation, staff were available to answer questions and collect feedback from attendees.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.

**CONTACT**

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Powerpoint