



## **Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works**

**Date:** January 28, 2011  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Minneapolis Streetcar Planning Quarterly Update**

**Recommendation:**  
Receive and file quarterly update on streetcar planning.

**Previous Directives:**

- September 28, 2010 – T&PW received and filed an update on streetcar planning.
- July 2, 2010 – City Council authorized the proper city officers to submit an application for federal Alternatives Analysis Program funding and/or TIGER II planning grant funding to conduct an alternatives analysis for an initial streetcar line within the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridors.
- April 2, 2010 – City Council approved the long-term streetcar network as defined in the Minneapolis Streetcar Feasibility Study Final Report dated December 2007; authorized staff to engage partner agencies and private stakeholders and assemble the appropriate information from existing studies and additional study as needed to determine whether the City should enter into the federal project development process and appropriate phasing; and directed staff to return to T&PW Committee at least quarterly with a report on streetcars.
- March 23, 2010 – T&PW received and filed the Minneapolis Streetcar Funding Study.
- January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed Minneapolis Streetcar Feasibility Study Final Report dated December 2007.
- October 9, 2007 – T&PW received and filed draft Streetcar Feasibility Study for public review.

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Don Elwood, P.E., Director of Transp. Planning & Engineering 673-3622

**Approved by:**

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Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenters:** Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner

**Reviews:**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Not Applicable
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan:	Not Applicable
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Not Applicable

**Financial Impact**

No financial impact

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: Not applicable

City Goals: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Comprehensive Plan: Improving the quality of transit service on the Primary Transit Network is consistent with the transportation goals in the Comprehensive Plan.

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

**Background/Supporting Information**

As authorized by City Council on July 2, Public Works submitted applications for two competitive federal transportation planning grant programs to advance streetcar planning on Nicollet and Central avenues: the Nicollet-Central Urban Circulator Alternatives Analysis project. The project was submitted on July 12 to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Alternatives Analysis Livability Program Funding Opportunity and on August 23 for the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER II planning grant program. The project would evaluate alternative urban circulator transit services in the corridor, including streetcar and enhanced bus service. The City requested \$900,000 in federal funds, to be matched with \$300,000 in city funds approved by the City Council in the 2007 and 2008 capital improvement programs for streetcar planning.

On December 21, the FTA announced that the Nicollet-Central Urban Circulator project was one of 24 planning grants awarded through the FTA's Alternative Analysis grant program, and the full \$900,000 in requested federal funds was approved. The TIGER II planning grant awards were previously announced in October, and the Nicollet-Central project was not awarded funds.

Public Works staff is currently working with partner agency staff to determine next steps for initiating the Nicollet-Central Urban Circulator Alternatives Analysis project.

In addition, since the September 28 T&PW committee meeting, staff has provided a streetcar update presentation to the Northeast Chamber of Commerce, and updates are planned in January for a Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan public forum and the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Forum.