



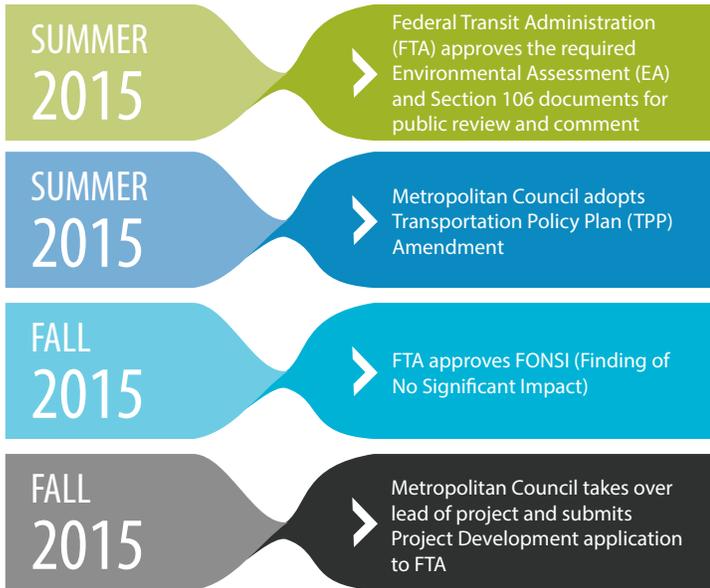
minneapolis modern

# streetcar



## Milestones for 2015

The key milestones for the Nicollet-Central Streetcar project in 2015 are:



The construction and operation of modern streetcar is dependent on funding. While the City has some funds for initial planning and engineering, federal, state and regional funding support will be needed to build and operate streetcar. Application for federal funding will likely be through the Small Starts program. State or regional funding is dependent on successful legislation for a metropolitan transportation sales tax. The City is doing everything possible to prepare for construction and operation as soon as possible. If funding became available, it is possible that the first streetcar line could be in operation as early as 2020.

## What Is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

An EA is a short public document that is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when federal funding is being sought for a proposed project, and the project does not meet the thresholds for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a "Categorical Exclusion".

The EA document is used to briefly describe the potential for environmental impacts as a result of the proposed project. The environmental review conducted under this process may result in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or it may result in a finding that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) level of review is required due to the potential for significant environmental impacts.



For more information, go to:

[www.minneapolismn.gov/nicollet-central](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nicollet-central)

Or contact:

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## What Is Covered in an EA?

The EA document includes a description of the purpose and need for the proposed project, and provides a description of the alternatives that were studied. The EA also documents the potential for environmental impacts including:

- Land use and economic development
- Air quality, noise and vibration
- Property acquisition, relocation and easements
- Historic and archaeological resources
- Water resources, groundwater, soils, and ecologically sensitive areas
- Hazardous and regulated materials

- Parks and public recreational areas
- Threatened and endangered species
- Safety, security, energy use, utilities
- Visual quality and aesthetic impacts
- Environmental justice
- Community cohesion, socioeconomic characteristics

The EA documents the potential for short-term, long-term, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts related to the proposed project.

## What Is the Section 106 Process?

The Section 106 process is required when federal funds are sought for a proposed project. This process includes the inventory and evaluation of all lands and properties in the project corridor to assess their historic and/or archaeological significance. Properties are evaluated to determine if they are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places based on criteria established by the U.S. Department of Interior. If such properties exist in the corridor, the potential for impacts of these properties is determined and, where an adverse effect is found to occur, mitigation measures are identified to address those impacts.

## What Are the Opportunities for Public Input?

Once the EA and 106 documents have met FTA requirements, both documents will be made available for public review. There will be a 30-day public comment period during which a public meeting will be held. All public comments are documented and responded to and, if necessary, adjustments are made to the project and/or the environmental documentation based on the substantive comments received.

