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## INFORMATION:

### **CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2 (JCSU to Sunnyside)**

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Staff has begun work on the application necessary to advance the second phase of the CityLYNX Gold Line into the federal Small Starts process. The goal of this work is to achieve federal approval of the project in time for inclusion in the President's 2016 Federal Fiscal Year Budget (beginning October 1, 2015).

Council authorized the City Manager to apply for federal grants to implement Phase 2 of the CityLYNX Gold Line and authorized \$63 million in local matching funds at its May 28, 2013 business meeting. The CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2 project consists of:

1. Extending the CityLYNX project currently under construction from the Charlotte Transportation Center at the Time Warner Cable Arena west to Johnson C. Smith University on Beatties Ford Rd, and
2. Extending east from the current end at Hawthorne Lane and Fifth Street to Sunnyside Lane, and
3. Replacing the Gomaco replica trolley vehicles on the Starter Project with modern streetcar vehicles.

The first step in Small Starts process is to request Federal Transit Administration (FTA) permission to enter Project Development. A letter and supporting documentation for this request is being prepared by staff and will be submitted in late November 2013. Savings from the previous environmental studies of the CityLYNX Gold Line will be used to fund documentation preparation for the submittal.

Upon FTA approval to enter Project Development, potentially in January-February 2014, the design of the project will be advanced to 65% (beginning early 2014) in order to complete and submit the Small Starts application in September 2014 for rating and the recommendation of funding in early 2015. The Small Starts application requires a significant amount of work that will consist of:

- 65% Design and Cost Estimates
- Updated Travel Forecasts
- Vehicle Assessment and Engineering
- Financial Planning
- Land Use and Transit Oriented Development Reports

After FTA approval to enter Project Development, any local funds expended upon advancing the project will be eligible for up to 50% federal match upon the approval of the Small Starts application. Staff estimates that the preparation of this application will require up to \$12

million of the \$63 million in local funds allocated by Council to advance the project. Should the initial application be unsuccessful, the funds expended to advance the project to 65% design will not be lost since it will form an important foundation to understanding how the project will need to be modified to receive funding in a future application. Additional presentations to Council and requests for Council action will follow as the CityLYNX project advances.