CHARLOTTE STREETCAR
STARTER PROJECT

Starter Project Fast Facts

1.5 miles of track from Presbyterian Hospital to the Charlotte Transportation Center

Estimated Cost is $37 million

- $24.99 million from Urban Circulator Grant
- $12 million from City of Charlotte

The project will use a half mile of existing track along Elizabeth Avenue.

Construction should begin in 2012.

Revenue service anticipated to start in 2015.

For more information on the project, visit *www.charlottefuture.com.*

Project Manager
John Mrzygod
Engineering & Property Management

City receives Urban Circulator Grant to begin Streetcar Starter Project

In July 2010, the City of Charlotte was awarded a $24.99 million Urban Circulator Grant from the Federal Transit Administration. To receive the grant, the City had to go through a federal selection process and meet criteria that included significantly enhanced mobility, accessibility for economically disadvantaged populations, coordination between transportation and land-use, improved energy efficiency, enhanced existing development and fostered redevelopment.

Charlotte was one of five cities in the United States to receive a grant, which was for the maximum amount allowed. The City is also matching the grant with $12 million to fund the Starter Project.

The Urban Circulator Grant will allow the City to build one mile of track from Presbyterian Hospital to the Charlotte Transportation Center (CTC). The project will use the half-mile track already installed along Elizabeth Avenue.

The Charlotte Streetcar Starter Project will connect the Elizabeth Avenue Business Corridor, Government District, Central Piedmont Community College, Presbyterian Hospital, Time Warner Cable Arena and the Charlotte Transit Center (CTC). Because it will connect to the CTC, riders can easily connect to the LYNX light rail and the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) bus lines.

The City of Charlotte Engineering & Property Management team is responsible for this City project. Once the grant is received, the City must begin construction within eighteen months and be operational upon completing the project.

To cut costs, the project will be using the replica trolleys already owned by the City.

The City had originally hoped to have the system operational by 2014. Because environmental documents need to be completed before the FTA can release funds, the project has been pushed back.

Revenue service is now anticipated to start in 2015.

February 2011

How does the Streetcar Starter Project fit with City transit plans?

As the Streetcar Starter Project moves forward, many people are curious how this shorter version of the Streetcar fits into the overall transit plans.

The entire Streetcar Project is still part of the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan. The Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) reviewed the 2030 Plan at their November workshop. The discussion focused on revising the Plan to reflect the current economic environment while maintaining the long-range vision.

Currently there is insufficient funding to deliver the 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan with the limitations of the sales tax revenue growth experienced during the last three years.

CATS' vision for fulfilling the Transit Corridor System Plan has not changed. As funding is acquired, CATS will continue to develop its rapid transit plan, which includes the Streetcar, to further its commitment to the region to provide choices over congestion and assistance to improving the environment.

The Starter Project is a shorter version of the original Streetcar plan. The City is using this as a way to begin Streetcar construction. The overall 10-mile Streetcar corridor will still run from the Rosa Parks Place Community Transit Center on Beatties Ford Rd. through Center City to Eastland Mall on Central Avenue. The line will have 37 transit stops and connect the City's east and west sides.

In 2009, the City decided to move forward on design for the line and the project was moved from CATS to Engineering and Property Management. While Engineering is the primary project manager of the Streetcar, they continue to work with CATS staff in advancing the entire Streetcar line.

In December 2010, the 30% design and engineering phase for the entire Streetcar Project was completed. Funding to complete the entire line has not yet been identified.

Urban Land Institute Rose Fellows recommend expanded Streetcar Line along Monroe Rd

In January 2011, the City of Charlotte hosted a group of distinguished urban development and design leaders from around the country. Their task was to examine the plans for Independence Blvd and to make recommendations to the City.

The group is part of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Rose Center for Public Leadership in Land Use. Mayor Anthony Foxx was chosen as one of four Mayors to be a 2010-2011 Rose Fellow. Joining Mayor Foxx in representing Charlotte are Gene Conti, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation; Danny Pleasant, Charlotte Department of Transportation; Debra Campbell, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department and Jim Schumacher, Assistant City Manager for the City of Charlotte.

After two days of presentations and site visits, the group made their recommendations during a public presentation in City Council chambers. Included in their recommendations is the expansion of the long term vision for Streetcar service to include a line along Monroe Road and possibly a loop to join the two Streetcar lines on Central Ave. and Monroe Rd.

These ULI recommendations do not change any current adopted plans, such as the 2030 Transit Systems Plan or the City of Charlotte Capital Improvement Program. The recommendations are complementary to the Independence Corridor Plan that has been developed through extensive public input over the last two years, and will not delay the schedule for approval of that Plan this spring.

The Metropolitan Transit Commission and Charlotte City Council will receive a briefing on the ULI report in March. Should they consider changing the Plans to incorporate the ULI recommendations, that process would involve additional public input and discussion over the next one or two years.

Watch for more information and public meetings as these updates are considered.

Community Involvement Is Key

The City would like for you to be involved as we design and build your Streetcar. To find out about the project, visit *www.charlottefuture.com* and sign up for Notify Me. This subscription service will keep you updated on the project as we move forward.

This is a publication about the City of Charlotte Streetcar Starter Project. The update is compiled on behalf of Engineering & Property Management by the City of Charlotte Corporate Communications & Marketing Office. Questions about the project and the items highlighted in the publication should be directed to Corporate Communications & Marketing (704) 353-1157.