

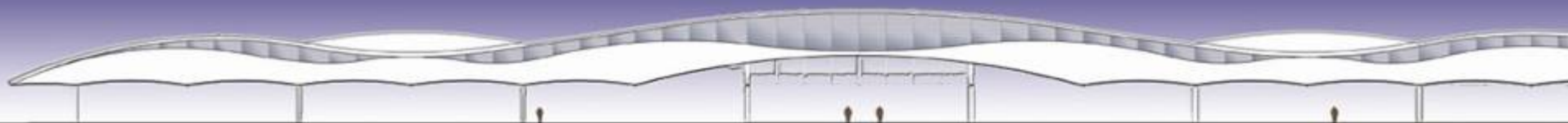
The Rapid Streetcar Initiative

Five things we learned

Rail ~ Volution 2008

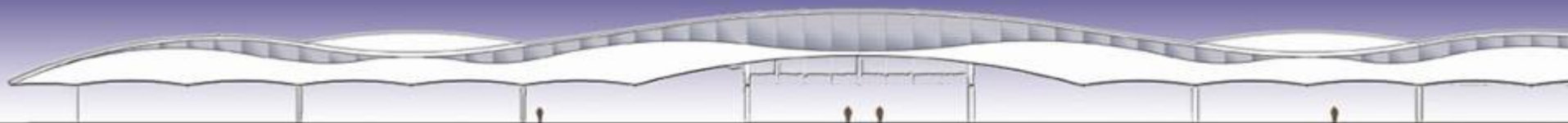
San Francisco

October 29, 2008



Interurban Transit Partnership

- Known as the *The Rapid*
- Regional Authority formed by six cities – East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Walker and Wyoming.
- Mobility Manager – Bus Routes, Paratransit Services, Countywide Employment Service, Downtown Shuttle, Van Pools, Regional Rideshare, University Connector & Shuttles.
- Rapid Central Station – First LEED certified public transit facility in the United States



First thing Learned

- That a streetcar system is possible in Grand Rapids.



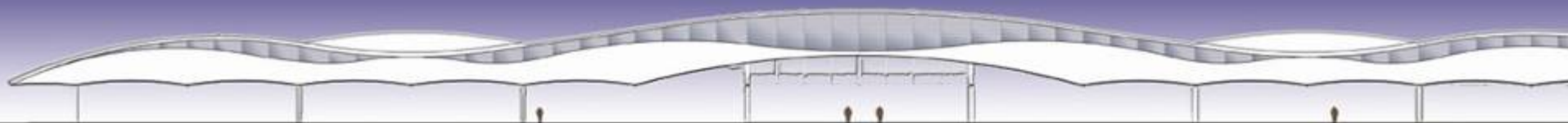
Streetcar Feasibility Study

- While BRT was selected as the locally preferred alternative for the New Starts funding, there was enough interest in a streetcar system to warrant further exploration.
- A feasibility study was completed in May and formally accepted by the ITP Board in June.
- Study estimates at least a 400% return on investment in Grand Rapids
- Development increases the property tax base, income tax revenue and adds jobs (direct and indirect)



Second thing learned

- That you have to use
Modern Street Cars



DMJM Feasibility Study indicates:

- That systems using modern streetcars have more than two times the ridership of other cars.
- Modern - Portland and Tacoma have a range of 1200-1500 riders per 100,000 in population
- Historic – Memphis has 427 riders per 100,000 in population.
- Replica – Tampa has 264 riders per 100,000 in population.

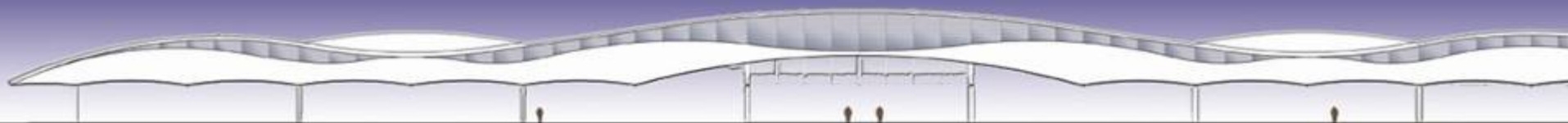


Modern Streetcars

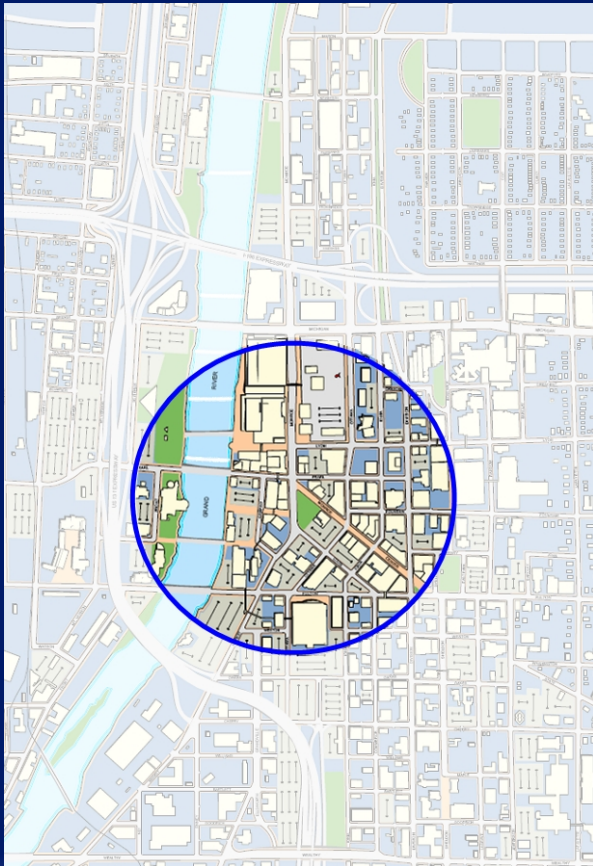


Third thing learned...

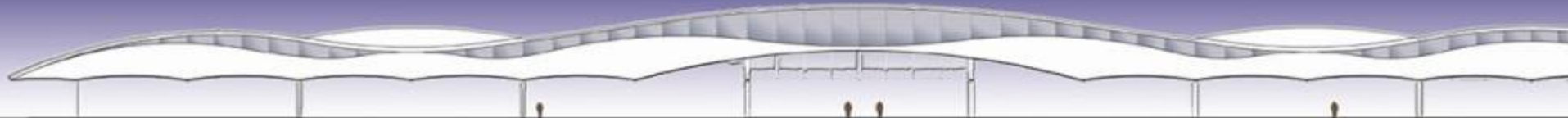
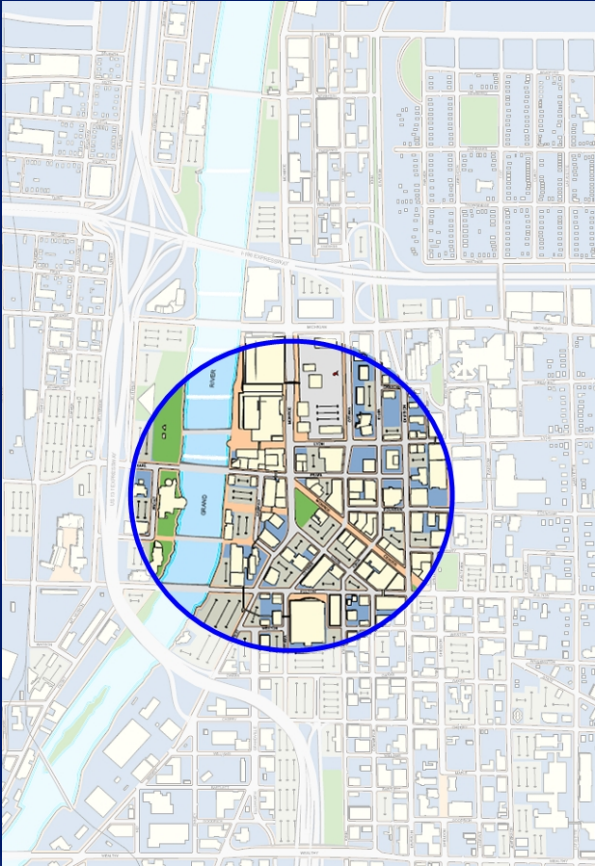
- That the streetcar is an extension of walking and expands the range.



Existing Walkable Range



Increased Walkable Range with Streetcar

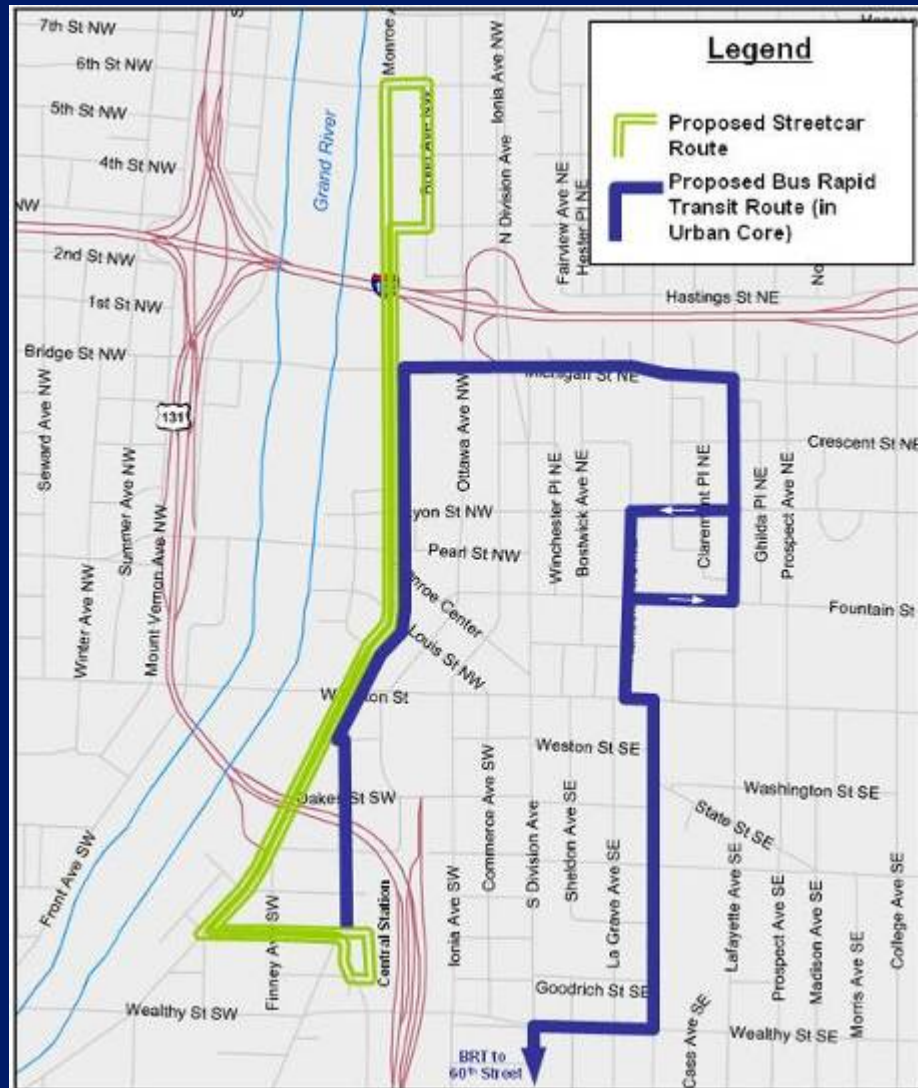


Fourth thing learned...

- That the streetcar will work quite well with our proposed BRT project.

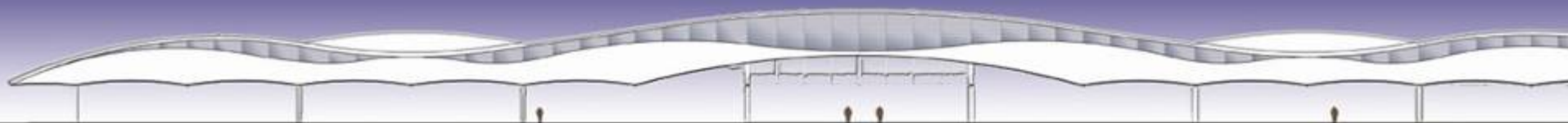


Streetcar and BRT Routes



Fifth thing learned...

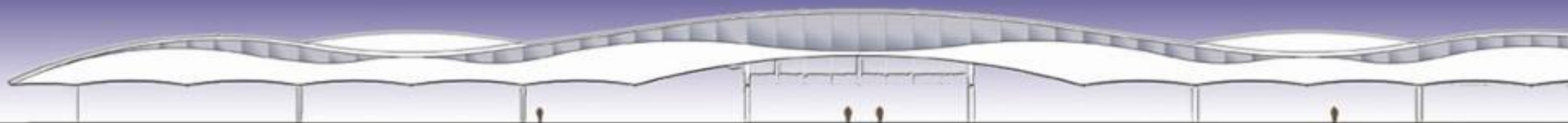
- That you cannot get federal funds because it does not qualify for New Starts... so you must raise private and local dollars.



Buses? Trains? Trolleys? Oh my!

What will you ride? And where? [Click here](#)

THE RAPID



Thank You!

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