Tucson Modern Streetcar

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Birth of the Idea

- May 2002: Failed Sales Tax Initiative
- August 2004: Major Transit Investment Study
  - Became FTA Alternatives Analysis in January 2005
- January 2006: Modern Streetcar as LPA
- May 2006: Voters approve RTA Plan and ½ cent sales tax that provides local funding
- March 2007: Mayor & Council approves LPA for project
The Need for the Project

- Connect major activity centers
- Create economic development
- Support population and employment growth
- Improve transit service
- Support development in downtown and UA areas
- Mitigate parking constraints
- Preserve neighborhoods
Project Details

- Alignment length: 4 miles
- 19 stations
- 7 modern streetcars
- Peak/off-peak headways: 10/20 minutes
- Ridership estimate from AA: 4000+ per weekday
Project Development Process

- MTIS/AA → LPA
- Draft Environmental Assessment
- Small Starts Documentation
- Final EA / FONSI
- Agreement for Project Development (Final Design)
- Construction Grant Agreement
- Construction
- Operation

Oct 29, 2008
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Project Funding

- Capital costs: $145 million (YOE)
  - Some capital costs absorbed by other local projects (bridge, utility relocations)
- Local funding: $88 million
  - Includes operating costs of $1 million annually starting in 2012
- Small Starts funding
  - Will submit for a 50 percent federal share
Community Involvement

- City DOT requires all projects to have a CLG with monthly updates
- Mayor & Council approval of LPA required support from all stakeholders
- Federal EA requires public review
- Result → Nearly 100% local approval of project
Video Simulation
Next Steps

• TOD workbook for 4 station areas
• Preliminary engineering and risk assessment
• Preparation of design-build procurement
• Procurement of streetcar vehicles
• Coordination with other ongoing City projects
For More Information...

Website: www.tucsonontransitstudy.com

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