A Small Start

David Johnson
Kansas City Regional Transit Alliance
Streetcar wins $20 million TIGER grant

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Phase 1 of the Kansas City Streetcar just snagged another $20 million in federal funds, this time from the TIGER program. The announcement was leaked to the media yesterday afternoon by Sen. Claire McCaskill’s office. A formal list of winning projects is due from the Department of Transportation next week. $20 million is the full amount requested by the city.

This new funding will augment existing revenue sources: the transportation development district, other local funds (PIAC/TIF), and two previously-awarded federal grants. It’s likely that the city will not issue as much debt as a result, allowing an earlier opportunity to reduce the TDD’s special assessments.

The funds need to be obligated by Sept. 30, 2014, which means the City Council will have to act soon if it wants to make the most of the new money.
• Early voice for project
• Mayor asked to join governance task force
• Founding member of streetcar authority
• Asked to lead operations and tech team