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MEDIA KIT

City Seeks More Input on
KC Downtown Streetcar Project





News from City Hall

City Communications Office

City of Kansas City, Mo.

www.kcmo.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

City Seeks More Input on KC Downtown Streetcar Project: Open Houses Scheduled

The City of Kansas City, Mo., will host a series of public open houses on May 15, 16 and 17 throughout the downtown area to discuss conceptual plans for the Kansas City Downtown Streetcar project. During the open houses, the public will be able to review project exhibits that illustrate the streetcar route, explain construction timing, outline applicable studies and plans, and review the project's funding strategy. Representatives from the city and consultant team members will be present to answer questions and discuss issues or concerns.

“Now is the perfect time for community members to engage in the KC Downtown Streetcar project,” said Russ Johnson, 2nd District Councilman and chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “We have a solid plan, but none of the details are set in stone. Now is the time to talk with project team members so we can consider and incorporate your suggestions during the engineering phase.”

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Open House Schedule				
<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>
No. 1	May 15	4 - 7 p.m.	KC Public Library - Downtown Branch, Helzberg Auditorium	14 W 10th St. Kansas City, Mo.

No. 2	May 16	4 - 7 p.m.	Steamboat Arabia Museum - Atrium	64105 400 Grand Blvd. Kansas City, Mo. 64106
No. 3	May 17	4 - 7 p.m.	Union Station - Arthur Stilwell Room (on C-level near the new Grand Gallery)	30 West Pershing Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108

Short, identical presentations will be given at 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30 p.m.

The downtown streetcar is a starter line for an expanded regional transit system that serves downtown, as recommended by the recently completed Downtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis. The streetcar will provide an attractive transit option to more conveniently connect people and places. It will also support regional and city efforts to develop downtown Kansas City as a more vibrant and successful urban center. The total project is estimated to cost \$100 million. Construction is expected to begin mid- to late 2013. Opening day is anticipated for mid-2015.

Additional materials and updates on the project, as well as other regional studies, can be found on the Mid-America Regional Council's Smart Moves website at www.kcsmartmoves.org. Any person with a disability who desires reasonable accommodation to attend this meeting may contact the City's 311 Action Center at 311 or 816-513-1313, or for TTY, 816-513-1889, or by e-mail at actioncenter@kcmo.org.

Media inquiries and other requests for more information about this project should be directed to CONTACT or e-mail CONTACT.

You're Invited:

KC Streetcar 101

Public Meetings

Now is the time to get an update on the KC Downtown Streetcar project, learn how it would operate, and talk with project team members about how construction effects can be minimized. We want to hear your thoughts at the upcoming public meetings!



How will KC Downtown Streetcar work?

A 2-mile starter line for a modern Streetcar has been proposed to run on Main Street from the River Market on the north, through the Central Business District and the Crossroads areas, to Union Station and Crown Center on the south. It would run in an existing street lane and other vehicles could still use that lane. It would operate seven days a week. Stops would be located every two blocks with streetcars arriving approximately every 10 minutes in each direction.

The City is working closely with downtown stakeholders on governance issues, such as: who will operate/maintain the Streetcar, how decisions will be made during and after construction, fare policy, and numerous other topics. A mayoral committee is being formed to help structure a legal framework over the next several months.

Has everything been decided?

Not at all. The team is fleshing out the details of the route (e.g., which lane the streetcar will run in, specific stop locations, site for a vehicle maintenance facility, effects on traffic/parking, etc.). Current concept drawings will be available at the public meetings.

Issues such as noise and vibration along with traffic and construction effects are being investigated so they can be minimized or mitigated. Now is the time to talk with project members so we can consider and incorporate your suggestions during the engineering phase.

How will construction affect me?

Building a streetcar line is different from building a road or even light-rail transit. Construction will be completed in segments (perhaps 2 – 3 blocks at a time), and the City will work with business owners and residents along the route to minimize disruptions. Photos of typical streetcar construction will be displayed at the public meetings.

How will the Streetcar be funded?

The City applied for \$25 million in federal funds (TIGER grant) in March; announcements of grant winners are expected to be made by early June. The City is proposing that a Transportation Development District (TDD) be approved by downtown voters to help pay a portion of the costs through property assessments, sales tax and other sources. The Jackson County Circuit Court approved sending the question to the voters in the District, and a mail-in vote on the formation of the TDD will occur over the summer. Details of the TDD proposal, as well as applications required to obtain a mail-in ballot, will be available at the public meetings.

What's the schedule?

Construction is expected to begin in mid- to late 2013, and to be completed by late 2014. Opening day is expected by mid-2015.



You're Invited

KC Streetcar 101: Downtown Streetcar Public Meetings

Join us for one of three open house public meetings featuring brief presentations at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, May 15

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Helzberg Auditorium
Kansas City Public Library -
Downtown Branch
14 W 10th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

Wednesday, May 16

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Atrium
Steamboat Arabia Museum
400 Grand Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64106

Thursday, May 17

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Arthur Stilwell Room
(C-Level near Grand Gallery)
Union Station
30 West Pershing Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64108

Questions? Contact John Frerking at jfrerki@burnsmcd.com
For more information, visit www.kcsmartmoves.org



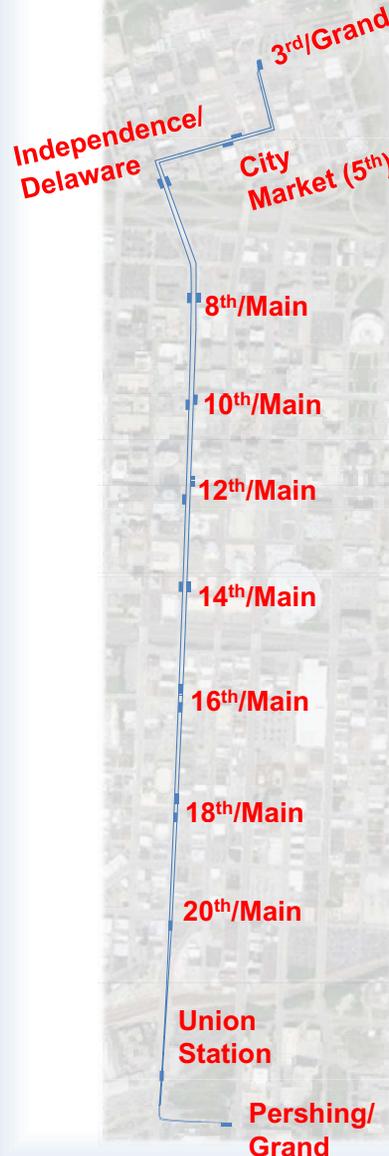
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Route Refinements

Now that **Main Street** has been selected as the preferred route, and **streetcar** has been selected as the preferred transportation mode, more focused **conceptual plans** are being developed.

Here's how the concept is evolving in the **Advance Conceptual Engineering** phase.

Planning Phase



In the River Market area, the route is now shown as a counter-clockwise loop. The primary reason for this is the steep grade on 5th Street – the streetcar will travel down the grade, but not up it.

Throughout the route, stop locations and track alignment have been refined based on factors such as business/driveway locations, coordination with transit stops, parking considerations, utility locations, and more detailed topographic surveys.

At the southern end, the turn onto Pershing Boulevard has been eliminated. Terminating at this location saves money in this phase, and maximizes flexibility for future extensions.

Refined Concept

