



Riverside

RECONNECTS
STREETCAR STUDY

FAQ's

Frequently asked questions about the Streetcar Feasibility Study

Are you building a streetcar system in Riverside?

Not today, but maybe in the future. The City is studying whether a streetcar system would provide an effective and efficient connection between where people live and where they go to learn, work, and play. The study also explores whether a streetcar is a way to provide smart transportation options as the City's population grows.

What does the study evaluate?

The Riverside Reconnects Streetcar Study (Feasibility Study) evaluates potential routes, costs, funding and benefits of a modern streetcar. The study will also consider other types of "connector" systems along the identified routes, including an historic trolley and an enhanced bus system, and the transit alternatives will be compared to a future that doesn't include any of these transit changes.

What is the Feasibility Study timeline?

The Feasibility Study began in June 2014, and will be completed in late fall 2015.

How detailed is the Feasibility Study?

The study will look very closely at the existing conditions, such as roadways, location of utilities, land uses, transit ridership, growth patterns and economics. Then, using information from similar projects built in the United States, as well as transportation industry standards, the study will estimate costs, ridership and benefits along several different potential streetcar routes. The end result will be "high level" estimates that will help make initial decisions on whether an enhanced transit system makes sense. The study will not create construction plans or establish the exact cost of a streetcar system.

How can I participate in the Feasibility Study?

Public input is important to this study. A website has been created so that resident and business owners can review study information, provide comments and take surveys. The website is available at all hours of the day, and will be updated as the study progresses. The website is: www.riversidereconnects.com. In addition, two community meetings will be held to get feedback on streetcar routes, types of transit systems, and potential improvements along the routes. The first meeting will be at the **Cesar Chavez Community Center** on **July 31, 2014** at **6:00 PM**. The second meeting will be a few months later (the day and location will be posted on the website!).

What is the Riverside Reconnects Steering Committee?

The Riverside Reconnects Steering Committee represents a broad range of community interests – residents, property owners, business owners, schools and academic institutions, service providers, and transit agencies. This group will meet at key times during the process to review the technical analysis and provide feedback on potential routes, transit technology, and financing options. The Steering Committee is scheduled to have six (6) meetings.

Why is Riverside considering a streetcar?

Riverside will continue to experience huge amounts of population growth over the next 30 years, and existing roadways cannot expand enough to allow cars to meet all of the future transportation needs. Public transportation will need to become more mainstream, and streetcars have the potential to reduce vehicle trips, encourage private property investment, and fit within the existing roadways, and attract riders that wouldn't typically ride a circulator bus. Streetcars provide a high-quality transit service that can complement existing bus service, walking, and bicycling, and reinforces the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods.



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How much will a streetcar or other high-quality transit system cost to build?

The City doesn't know for sure. The Feasibility Study is intended to identify how to keep a system simple and economical, while providing quality transit service. The study will look at potential routes and estimate the cost of installation and operation on those routes. It will also look at potential ways to fund the study, so that informed decisions can be made.

Where would the streetcar go?

The Feasibility Study is evaluating potential routes that connect downtown with UCR, and downtown with the shopping and business districts along the Market Street/Magnolia Avenue corridors. The study will also look at what makes the most sense for an initial phase of construction.

How was this study funded and when will it be done?

The Feasibility Study is mostly funded by a grant awarded to Riverside by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and funded by Caltrans, with a smaller match amount provided by the City.

What is a streetcar and how does it differ from other types of transit service?

A streetcar is an electric (and/or battery) powered rail car operated on rails embedded in a street. Modern streetcars vary in size and are designed to make frequent stops (every few blocks if desired). Modern streetcar vehicles are typically about 60 to 70 feet in length. Depending on their length and configuration, modern streetcars can carry 30 to 40 seated passengers per car, but have a longer length that allows more standing riders than is possible on a typical bus. The study will also consider "historic" trolleys and enhanced bus options. The study will not consider light rail.

Single Unit Trolley



Modern Streetcar



Articulated Bus



Light Rail



How fast do streetcars go?

Moving streetcar systems are designed to match the flow of traffic on the streets in which they operate. Typical operating speeds range up to 25 – 35 miles per hour. Average speeds, especially in a Downtown area with signals, stops, etc. will be lower. The City is not studying light rail or heavy rail train systems, which are designed for faster speeds and longer-distance trips.