

Livable and Sustainable Communities

Regional Case Studies – Region VI

Summer 2010

New Orleans Streetcar Expansion, New Orleans, LA



New Orleans Streetcar (Source: FTA)



Extension area map (Source: NORTA)



Union Passenger Terminal (Source: NORTA)

Location: Central Business District and French Quarter, New Orleans, LA (*Urban*)

Project Type: Urban electric streetcar *New Orleans Regional Transit Authority*

Transit Funding:

- Phase I: TIGER grant - \$45M
- Phase II: Urban Circulator / FTA Small Starts / TBD
- Phase III: FTA Small Starts/New Starts (anticipated)

Federal Partners:

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Livability Goals:

- ✓ Provide more transportation choices
- ✓ Enhance economic competitiveness
- ✓ Support existing communities
- ✓ Value communities and neighborhoods

Project Description:

The current New Orleans streetcar expansion is part of a three-phase effort to extend streetcars throughout the city, serving existing neighborhoods and developing an interconnected streetcar system. Phase I will run through the Central Business District (CBD) along Loyola Avenue from the Union Passenger Terminal to Canal Street, improving connectivity between local transit services along Canal Street and the Union Passenger Terminal, a hub for Amtrak, Greyhound, and local services.

The Loyola Avenue corridor is home to significant commercial and business activity, including the city's energy, government, health care and financial sectors, as well as many attractions and entertainment. Since Hurricane Katrina, there has been a steady migration of people to the areas served by the expansion project. These corridors are within the original city core and in need of revitalization.

Phase II will extend the streetcar into the French Quarter, and adjacent neighborhoods, such as Faubourg Marigny and Treme. It will reach existing areas historically served by streetcars, including low- and middle-income neighborhoods and new HUD housing projects.

Phase III will connect the Convention Center with the existing Riverfront and Canal Street lines, providing service to an important destination and completing the streetcar network.



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Community Outreach:

The project team has held regular public meetings to discuss project elements, including the alignment, number of stops, and shelter design. There is a project website containing extensive project information. Residents have expressed strong support for the streetcar expansion, particularly in the neighborhoods served by the Phase II extension.

Key Community Partners:

- New Orleans Regional Transit Authority
- City of New Orleans
- Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
- Utility Companies



St. Charles Streetcar (Source: NORTA)

Livability Highlights:

Provide more transportation choices: The expansion will improve mobility and connectivity throughout the city by expanding the area served by streetcars and by providing connections to existing streetcar lines.

Promote equitable, affordable housing: The expansion will provide access to existing and future HUD housing development sites.

Enhance economic competitiveness: The streetcar serves the CBD and is expected to attract new investment along Loyola Avenue. Phase I will be an important link supporting the planned medical corridor, a major new economic development initiative. The new streetcar lines will also improve access to the arts and museum district.

Support existing communities: The expansion will serve existing residential neighborhoods, including low-income and other areas that have been underserved by transit for decades.

Coordinate policies and leverage investment: The streetcar expansion supports the goals of the recently adopted New Orleans Master Plan, promoting the downtown, diverse modes of transportation, and preservation of the historic character. Increased streetcar service along these corridors will support housing and economic development.

Value communities and neighborhoods: The streetcar expansion will improve access to business, residential and entertainment centers for both residents and visitors. New mixed income housing will serve employees of the medical, legal, hospitality and other industries important to the CBD.

Early Insights:

Streetcars have a strong historical importance to the people of New Orleans. The expansion project will support local diversity and culture by providing easy access between diverse historic neighborhoods and business and cultural centers. Implementation of all three expansion phases will provide streetcar access within six blocks of anywhere in the French Quarter or the CBD, improving economic competitiveness and quality of life.

For More Information About this Project Contact:

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This case study, and others related to Livable
and Sustainable Communities, is available at:
http://fta.dot.gov/publications/publications_10991.html